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Comics INTERNATIONAL

Issue 22 July 1992 edition | The Comics Industry Monthly | 80 pages 50p / $1.50

Over seven million flock to opening weekend screenings

Batman Returns sets new world record

MUCH TO THE delight of the comics industry, *Batman Returns* has made Hollywood history and boosted the entire market for the trade and consumers alike.

Accounting for almost half of North America's total box office sales on its opening weekend, the Warner Bros movie drew in over seven million cinema-goers and took $46.8 million.

With its second weekend take of $25.4m, **Batman Returns** easily maintained its top spot, taking more than double the first weekend of its competitors. This has brought its initial nine day income to $96.8m -- almost twice its production cost.

New York Cops Pin Rap on Batman

Even a recently attempted boycott brought free advertising for the movie's US release.

When Time Warner company Sire Records released a new Ice-T single, *Cop Killer*, police officials urged audiences to shun all the conglomerate's product, especially the high profile **Batman Returns**.

While Time Warner defended its right to produce films and records, no matter how objectionable, the police anger over such lyrics as "I'm 'bout to bust some shots off, I'm 'bout to dust some cops off" only resulted in such pre-launch publicity as a front page story in **The New York Post**, headed *Cops Pin Rap on Batman*.

*To the surprise of the comics world, Michael Keaton adds a gun to his Dark Knight armament in **Batman Returns**.*

Further increasing the film's profile, critics have been overwhelmingly positive. Considered by all to be far superior to Tim Burton's original 1989 **Batman** movie, the sequal was described by **Newsweek** as *"a moody, grotesque, perversely funny $50m art film"*.

With the inevitable increase in production of **Batman** and related comics, the success of the movie has boosted turnover for Warner subsidiary DC Comics, who had been losing badly to its major competitor Marvel Comics.

Ironically, the movie could directly help Marvel, who await the obvious benefits of James (**Aliens**) Cameron's **Spider-Man** and **X-Men** film projects.

The huge success of **Batman Returns** is certain to be a key factor in 20th-Century Fox's decision to finance Cameron's ex-Carolco comics movies (see page 4) as part of a recently signed exclusivity contract.

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NEWS america

Marvel launches Spider-Man 2099

YOU'LL BELIEVE A SPIDER CAN FLY -- according to Marvel's soon-to-be published **Spider-Man 2099.**

Spider-Man 2099 will spearhead Marvel's new 'universe of tomorrow', with the direct sale $1.75 issue one shipping on September 1st.

Produced by **Hulk** and **X-Factor** author Peter David, with art by Rick Leonardi and Al Williamson, **Spider-Man 2099** sets the scene for companion titles, **Doom 2099**, **Punisher 2099** and new character **Ravage 2099**. Depending on their success, further future hero titles are inevitable.

While rival publisher DC Comics has long toyed with the idea of future versions of their characters within their own titles (Green Lantern and Superman being 1960s examples), Marvel is expanding its already voluminous line by launching the future-heroes straight into their own monthly comics.

With **Spider-Man 2099** set so far in the future, few links will exist with contemporary titles. Most of Marvel's leading heroes are faded memories, though immortal heroes such as Thor and Hercules and already established future versions of Iron Man, Machine Man and the mutant stars automatically provide plotlines for later issues.

The new Spider-Man is Miguel O'Hara, a leading geneticist at Alchemax, one of the world-dominating corporations of 2099. In an experiment gone horribly wrong, O'Hara is imprinted with a spider's genetic code, giving him the creature's strength, speed and agility as well as drastically altering his (masked) appearance. And, as a by-product, the ability to fly.

Each of the **2099** series' first issues will feature metal foil stamping (a different procedure to the recent metal foil embossing) on its cover to make the line stand out among the current sea of titles.

Traditionally, already popular and established heroes have spun-off from trial runs as guest stars or following stories in anthology titles, but this current race to increase output continues apace putting retailers into further confusion when ordering unknown quantities and further stretching the financial limits for completist collectors.

New readers: begin here

***Comics International** is a monthly industry trade newspaper devoted to the comics medium. As such, it provides details of forthcoming UK and US comics and related items.*

Certain products mentioned are not available through regular newsstand outlets, but only from the 'direct sale' comics specialist retailers and mail order companies. In our news section, these comics are noted. Details of specialist outlets are advertised throughout the magazine, and a listing of the major specialist shops in Britain is given in our Retail Index.

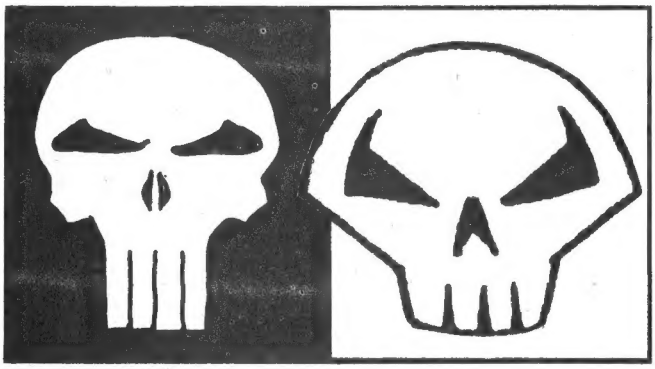
***Shipping dates** mentioned for North American titles are the dates copies leave their printers to be air-freighted to distributors for direct sale outlets approximately one week later. These dates and titles do not relate to newsstand on sale dates or titles.*

The Marvel and DC titles on general national distribution are on sale in the UK approximately two to three months after the air-freighted copies can be bought through specialist shops and mail order companies dealing with 'advance imports'. Because of the additional shipping costs incurred, these copies will be sold at a higher price than the UK price printed on their covers.

***American dollar prices** are listed for US titles with most UK comic shops converting at the rate of 70p = $1.*

*For full details concerning advertisers displaying the **CoBRA Mail Order Protection** symbol, see page 78.*

Symbolic clash between Marvel and Image



THE MASSIVE amount of press coverage given to the birth of Image Comics had an instant negative effect on the creators' former employer, Marvel Comics.

Not only did it reduce the freelance creative labour force for America's comics giant, but it even had a detrimental effect on the company's share prices on the New York Stock Exchange.

All of which makes it unlikely the ex-Marvel artists would risk treading on the toes of Marvel in any possible copyright infringement, the one Marvel possession of which they had been strongly aware and vehemently against.

Yet the outspoken Marvel critic Todd McFarlane chose to fashion his new creation **Spawn** with a large belt buckle (above, right) similar in design to the chest emblem of top Marvel seller, **The Punisher** (above, left).

The use of skulls on super-hero chests has a long history, dating back to Nedor's 1941 **Black Terror**, whose costume was in turn updated for Obsidian by Roy Thomas in the early McFarlane-drawn DC title **Infinity Inc** and more recently revived upon copyright expiry by Tim Truman for an Eclipse mini-series under his original name.

But Marvel could understandably see the stylised **Spawn** skull as a deliberately antagonistic move, and the company's lawyers quickly claimed McFarlane's use to be a copyright infringement.

Furthermore, Marvel is complaining over Image's use of two Liefeld **Youngblood** character names, Riptide and Sentinel and is also asking for assurances that its ex-creators will avoid using any concepts or ideas that may have been utilized or learned by them while at Marvel.

With rumours rife about Malibu's under-funding of the Image line, it isn't a matter of who is right or wrong, but whether the new company will be willing and able to defend its claim.

In response, McFarlane has adamantly stated that his ideas and storylines are his alone and he will continue to draw characters the same way, whoever he works for.

(News source: Diamond Dialogue)

*WHO will be next to take the crown as king of the X-Men artists? Above: Steve Lightle's cover for the September 15 launching **X-Men: The Animated Series** ($1.25, monthly, by Ralph Macchio and Andrew Wildman, based on the Fox tv pilot). Below: Andy Kubert's promo artwork for the 12-issue mutant crossover series, X-ecutioner's Song which begins in **Uncanny X-Men 294** ($1.50; ships September 1). All 12 parts will be poly-bagged accompanied by one of 12 different trading card.*

RoboCop and Predator in new DH anthology title

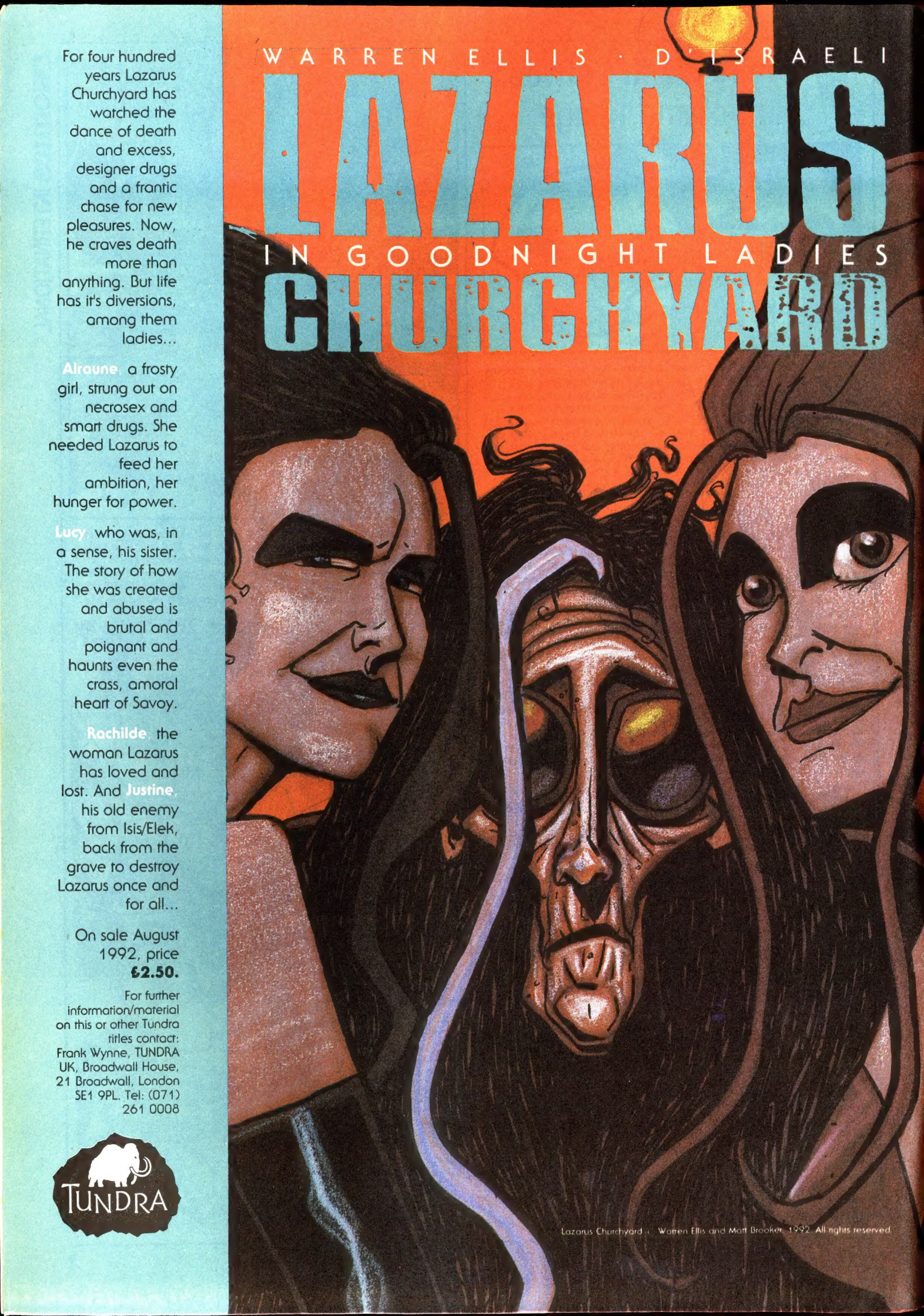
INSTANT IZZY'S
AUDIO & VIDEO
HEY, ROBO-COP. I FIGGERED WE WAS TOO SMALL TIME FOR YOU.
YEAH, GO OUT AND FIND YOURSELF A MURDERER OR SOMETHING.

CONTINUING its rapid expansion, publishers Dark Horse have announced a new and somewhat generically titled monthly, **Dark Horse Comics**.

A 32-page, advertisement free $2.50 colour anthology, the title will feature a first issue line-up of:

- A complete *Predator* story (Edgington & Leonardi).
- *RoboCop* (Arcudi and Leon) in a story that marks the beginning of a major new series.
- *Renegade* (Claremont and Giarrano) which introduces characters and situations for Claremont's forthcoming **Aliens vs Predator** series.
- *Time Cop* (Verheiden, Losey & Warner).

With a Dave Dorman wraparound cover featuring all main story characters, issue one of **Dark Horse Comics** ships August 25 to direct sale outlets.


WARREN ELLIS · D'ISRAELI
LAZARUS
IN GOODNIGHT LADIES
CHURCHYARD
For four hundred years Lazarus Churchyard has watched the dance of death and excess, designer drugs and a frantic chase for new pleasures. Now, he craves death more than anything. But life has it's diversions, among them ladies...
Alraune, a frosty girl, strung out on necrosex and smart drugs. She needed Lazarus to feed her ambition, her hunger for power.
Lucy, who was, in a sense, his sister. The story of how she was created and abused is brutal and poignant and haunts even the crass, amoral heart of Savoy.
Rachilde, the woman Lazarus has loved and lost. And Justine, his old enemy from Isis/Elek, back from the grave to destroy Lazarus once and for all...
On sale August 1992, price £2.50.
For further information/material on this or other Tundra titles contact: Frank Wynne, TUNDRA UK, Broadwall House, 21 Broadwall, London SE1 9PL. Tel: (071) 261 0008
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IN BRIEF

FOLLOWING recent concern over Carolco's ability to finance the projected James (**Aliens**) Cameron **Spider-Man** movie, 20th-Century Fox has come to the rescue.

Cameron is reported to have signed a 5-year exclusivity contract with Fox for over $500 million.

Fox is understood to be willing to budget up to $50 million for Cameron's projects which, as well as **Spider-Man**, include an **X-Men** feature film.

Rick Geary's new title

PRAIRIE Moon & Other Stories is a new Rick Geary anthology, part new and part reprint, being published by Dark Horse.

Shipping on August 11, the 32 page b&w title is priced $2.25.

For Mutant Completists

MARVEL Collectors Edition 1 will be a scarce title in Britain.

An anthology title, it features *Wolverine & Jubilee* (by Hama, Howell & Kieth), *Ghost Rider* (Mackie, Hebert & Palmiotti), *Silver Surfer* (Caragonne & DeCastro) and *Spiderman* (Isabella & Kupperberg).

But it will be available by post only, to people sending away 50c plus a *Charleston Chew* wrapper.

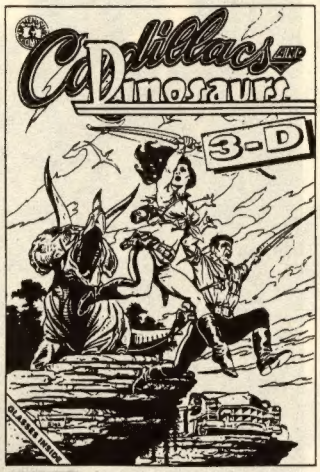
Marvel shares rise

DESPITE the negative publicity surrounding the recent exodus of creators to Image, Marvel's net income has more than doubled in the first quarter of 1992.

The result of a large increase in both publishing and licensing revenue, the company's income rose by $5 million, representing a 20c increase on the share price, as opposed to a $1.6 million rise for the first quarter of 1991.

Publisher Terry Stewart told the **Wall Street Journal** that in unit sales alone the company had experienced a growth of 41%.

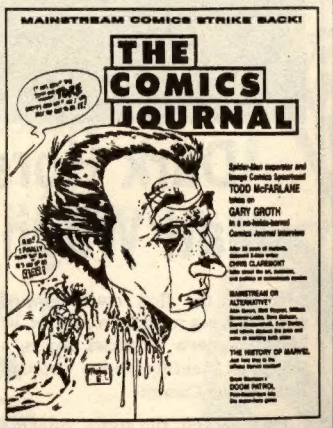
Xenozoic Tales returns



UNDER its more widely known (Epic reprint) title of **Cadillacs and Dinosaurs**, Kitchen Sink is releasing a 3-D special featuring a new cover by creator Mark Schultz and 3-D processed reprints from **Xenozoic Tales** #6 ("Green Air") and #7 ("The Growing Pool").

Shipping late July with free 3-D glasses, the 32pg title is $3.95.

McFarlane vs Groth



In a special *mainstream* issue, **Comics Journal 152** (August, $4.95, 120 pages) pits Todd McFarlane against outspoken **Journal** editor Gary Groth, in a no-holds-barred interview on Marvel, DC and creators rights.

Chris Claremont also reveals the inner workings of Marvel, while Moore, Loebs, Dorkin and Wagner debate the advantages and disadvantages of major publishers.

Spawn sales record

Diamond Dialogue, the direct sale distributor's retailer monthly, has announced that Todd McFarlane's first project since **Spider-Man**, the Image title **Spawn**, has established a new record with sales in excess of 1.7 million.

This figure includes 200,000 for US newsstands and 250,000 to wholesaler Anco, for later repackaging with issues 2 and 3.

According to the publishers, there will not be a second printing.

Marc (Wolverine) Silvestri launches CyberForce

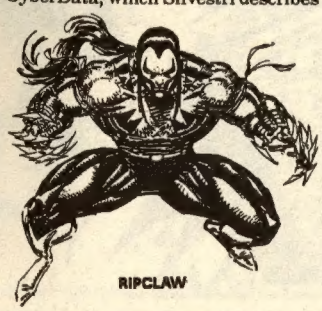
MADE POPULAR through his artwork on Marvel's **Wolverine** and **Uncanny X-Men**, Marc Silvestri is one of the original seven creators to have recently announced his intention to produce new work for the creator-owned company Image Comics.

Now, with an August launch, he is producing his own $1.95 title, **CyberForce**, in the wake of Rob Liefeld's **Youngblood**, Todd McFarlane's **Spawn**, Jim Lee's **WildC.A.T.S** and Erik Larsen's **Savage Dragon**.

Silvestri's commitment to Image is such that he has moved home to be in the San Diego area, where he is working in the Homage Studios base together with Jim Lee, Whilce Portacio and Scott Williams.

CyberForce will initially be only four issues, with the team's origin spread across the series, before becoming a continuing monthly title.

The team consists of seven fighting members, four men and three women, who have all been brought together by a common link; CyberData, which Silvestri describes as an evil corporation interested in world domination.



RIPCLAW

He continues, "Basically, CyberData either kidnaps or buys kids who are mutants, either as children before their abilities manifest themselves, or as young adults. They then assess their mutant abilities and enhance them with CyberData's technology."

He concludes, "They're kind of playing God, but actually, the way they twist kids at an early age to do CyberData's bidding, it's more like playing the devil."

The team consists of Stryker (telekinesis and invulnerability), Velocity (super-speed, with a fast-working computer connected to her brain), plus Cyblade, Heatwave, Ballistic, Ripclaw (below, left) and Impact.

These seven rebels who set up CyberForce (could there be an analogy with Marvel here?) constantly clash with the CyberData evil mutants as the two teams seek out other super-powered youngsters.

Silvestri will be pencilling and inking the title and together with his brother, Eric, co-plotting and co-scripting the series.

Comparing Image to Marvel, he remarks, "Here I can do anything I want with my own characters! If I want to kill someone off, I can. I'm responsible only to myself, and the readers. I plan on using a lot of feedback that I get from readers."

CyberForce 1, like the rest of the August Image titles, will contain a pull-out coupon for the mail-order only **Image Comics 0**.

Bryan Talbot creates a Gotham without Batman

LANCASHIRE's Bryan Talbot, nominated for a Harvey award with Neil Gaiman for last year's **Sandman Special**, has written and drawn a two-part **Legends of the Dark Knight** story to be published in issues 38 and 39, entitled *Masks*.

He admitted to **Comics International** that he was surprised when **Dark Knight** editor Archie Goodwin telephoned him asking him to go ahead with an unusual idea Bryan had once mentioned to Goodwin over dinner.

As Bryan describes it, "It deconstructs Batman. It looks at the things that constitute the Batman legend; the childhood experiences that lead to Bruce Wayne becoming the Batman, the symbology of mask wearing and bats, and the relationship between the Batman-Wayne personalities."

It is from this alter-ego aspect that Bryan takes his title, with the root of the word *persona* being the Latin word for *mask*.

The story looks at Batman's roots in detective fiction; his allies James Gordon and Alfred; his major villains (including the Mutants from Miller's **Dark Knight Returns**), and even a reference to the 1940s Republic movie serial. The second issue includes a surreal fight scene against sound effects, reminiscent of the 1960s 'camp' Batman period.

Deconstructing the Batman myth is done through the story being split between the "reality" of a delirious Bruce Wayne, strapped to a hospital bed, and the "fantasy" of flashbacks and dream.

"I tried to produce a visual dichotomy to stress this," adds Bryan. "All the Batman and dream sequences are dramatically inked with freestyle panel layouts, while all the hospital scenes are lightly inked on a strict 9-panel grid with no bleed. Steve Oliff's colours should emphasize this difference."

As well as the sound effect battle, the second issue is distinctly different to the first and includes a nightmare journey through Wayne's subconscious vision of a Gotham without the influence of Batman.

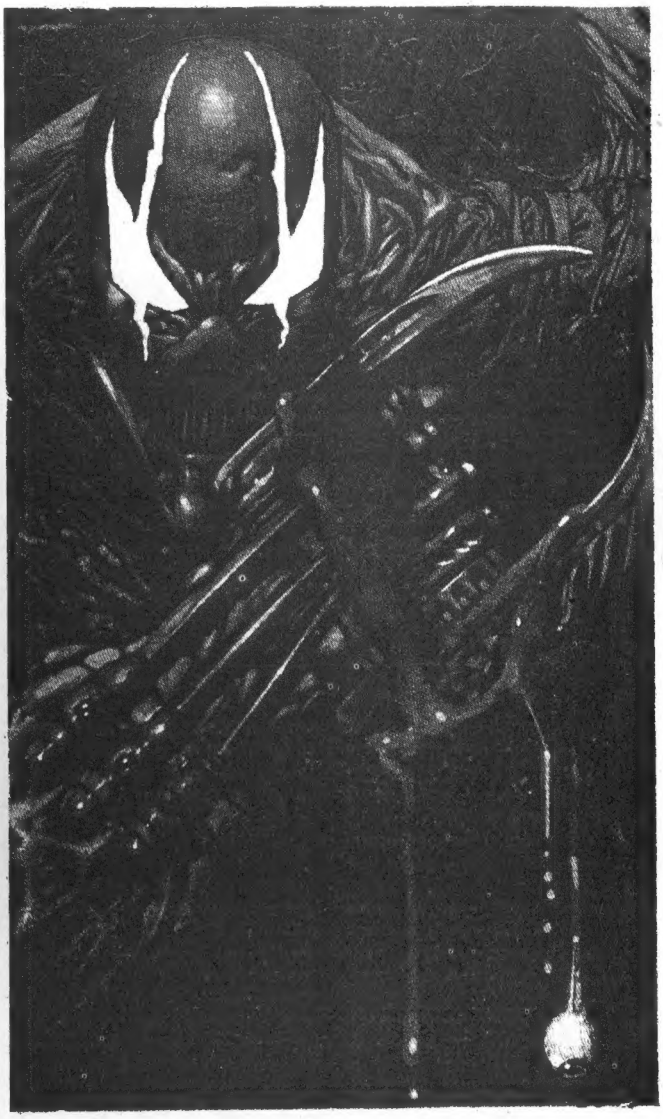
Summing up, Bryan adds, "Having said all this, I'd like to stress that what I've tried to produce is a cracking good read, a real ripping yarn."

Priced $1.75, **Legends of the Dark Knight 39**, *Masks Part 1*, ships late September.

BEST known for his artwork on 2000AD's *Nemesis the Warlock*, Bryan Talbot is no stranger to writing, having begun his career as a one-man writer-artist producing the *Chester P. Hackenbush Trilogy* for **Brainstorm Comix** (UK, 1975-1977), *Frank Fazakerly, Space Ace* (for **Ad Astra**) and his epic **Luther Arkwright** saga (1978-1981).

Together with Raymond Briggs' 1982 **When the Wind Blows**, Never Ltd's 1982 **Luther Arkwright** collected volume was the first British graphic novel.

Bryan has also worked on Fleetway's *Judge Dredd*, and, for DC Comics, **Hellblazer** and the 200 page mini-series **The Nazz**. He has won several Eagle awards for his work and his creations and is currently producing covers for the new American cyberpunk comic, **Raggedy Man**. ■



Dark Horse acquires Matt Wagner's Grendel

ONE OF the first creator-owned comics heroes returns in August, as Matt Wagner's **Grendel** begins a ten-issue monthly series through Dark Horse Comics.

Priced $2.50, the series launches with Simon Bisley cover art (above) and introduces penciller Patrick McEown. Character creator Wagner will provide script and finished inking for the series, which will be coloured by Bernie Mireault using the animation cel-style process he developed in the recent **Jam Colour Special**.

Because of the two year gap since the last Comico issue of **Grendel**, special text features will also be included to bring new readers up to date on previous developments.

The plot for the new series, *War Child*, picks up several years after the events in Comico's **Grendel 40** and the death of Orion Assante.

Ten year old Jupiter Niklos Assante, heir to the throne of the Grendel-Khan, is stolen from the retreat in which his rapacious stepmother has hidden him from his true destiny.

Though the child is worth a large ransom, there is more than money on the mind of his kidnapper -- who is none other than Grendel.

With its harsh language and graphic violence, **Grendel: War Child** is suggested for mature readers, with issue one shipping to direct sale outlets on August 4.

THE HERO RETURNS!

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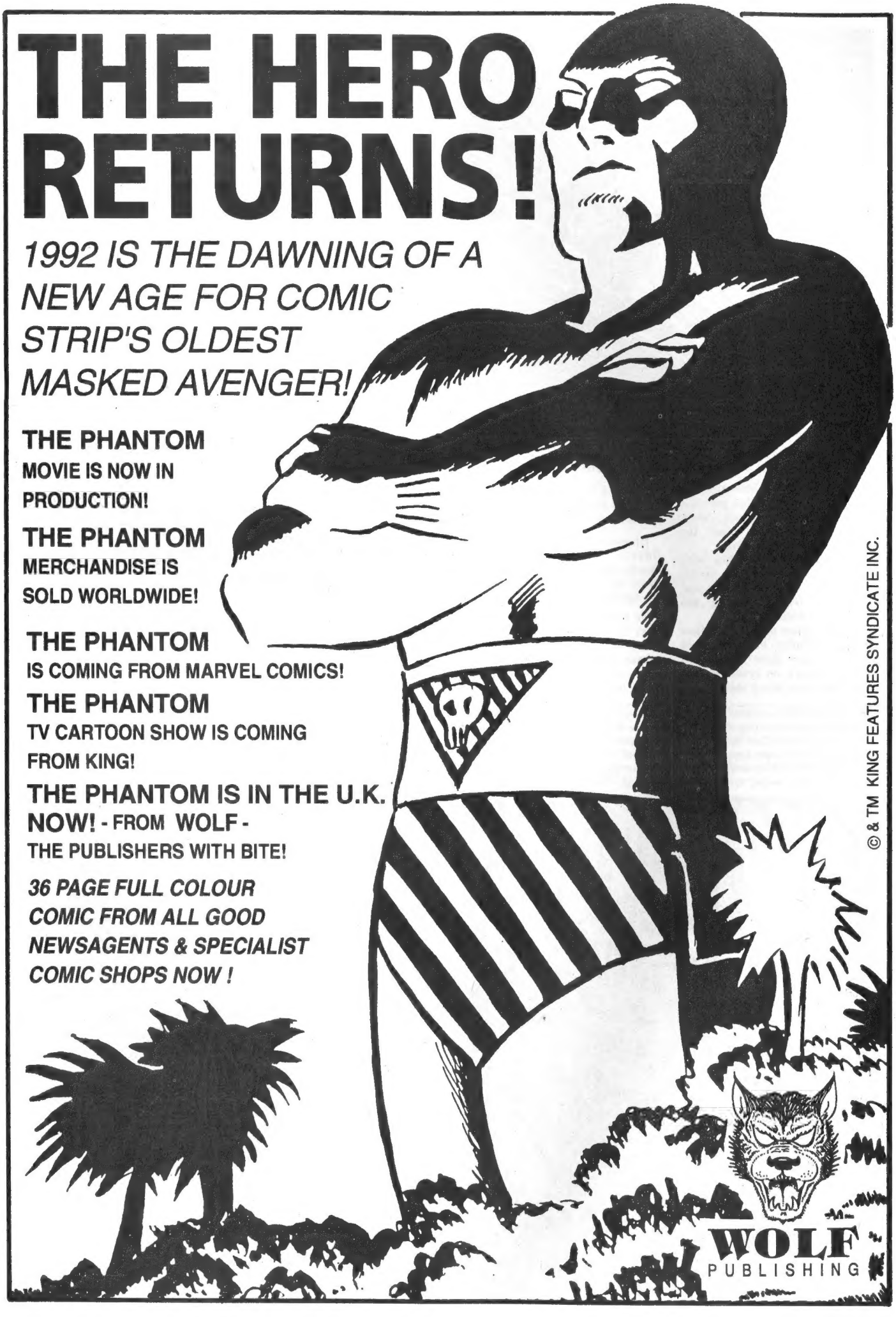

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WOLF
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Image launches Shadowhawk

PRIOR TO 1990, Jim Valentino had been known only for his parodies and whimsical humour work through **Normalman** and the autobiographical **Valentino**.

But his close friendship with Marvel's star artists led to his joining the team in 1990 and revitalising **Guardians of the Galaxy** as a frontline title.

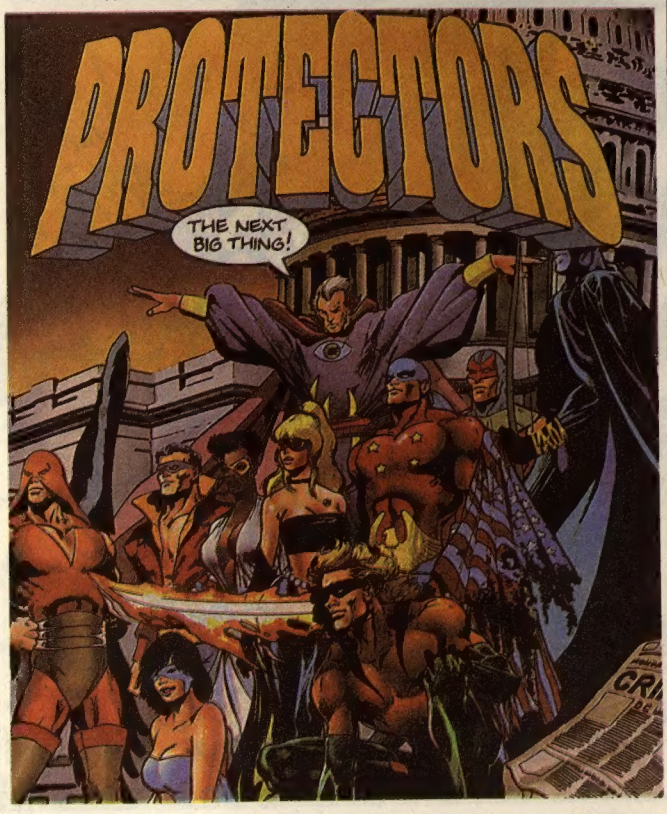
Logically, when top crowd-pullers Jim Lee, Whilce Portacio, Todd McFarlane and their friends left Marvel to work on creator-owned titles, Valentino joined them.

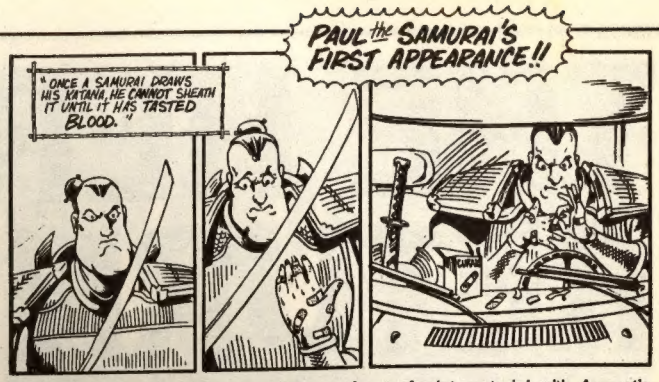
His first title for new company Image is the $1.95 **Shadowhawk**, which launches in August.

Unaware of Marvel UK's *Night-Raven*, Valentino says of *Shadowhawk*, "No one will ever know his secret identity, not even the reader, which I think is a first."

He continues, "We're never even privy to his thoughts. In the first issue, he stops a rape, throws the woman her dress and says, "Run." That's the only word he says in the entire book."

Below: Flushed with the success of partnering Image super-teams, Malibu Comics enters the arena with its August launching company-owned 6-issue title ***The Protectors****, by R. A. Jones, Thomas Derenick and Roland Mann. Inspired by the Golden Age creations of Bill Everett, Jack Cole and Carl Burgos, writer Jones promises the stories will focus on a human rather than cosmic level. In September and October spin-off titles,* ***Ferret****,* ***Arrow*** *and* ***Handbook of the Protectors Universe*** *will appear reviving 1940s Centaur characters (including Iron Skull & Mad Ming).*





NEC continues its colour republishing of out-of-print material with August's ***Chroma-Tick 4****, $3.50, featuring the first appearance of Paul the Samurai.*

DC line's lack of Impact

ARCHIE Comics super-heroes had always been second string to its stronger humour titles, having experienced failed revivals in the 1960s, 1970s and, in a pre-publication case of last minute nerves, the 1980s.

When DC licensed the characters, many critics compared the titles being published under DC's Impact imprint to Marvel's earlier alterative world heroes of The New Universe.

Like Marvel's **Starbrand**, **Psi-Force**, **Justice** and the rest, the DC Impact line has suffered a similar fate and is being cancelled this winter.

Though the titles lacked sufficient big name creators to impress fans, DC obviously recognised the need to create characters who would be easily accessible to the dwindling newsstand audience, and their attempt should be appreciated as correct in its intent, albeit poorly and condescendingly executed.

The weakest three titles end with their October dated issues, **Legend of the Shield 16**, **Jaguar 14** and **Web 14**, while December will be the final cover date for **The Fly** (#17), **Black Hood** (#12), **The Comet** (#18) and the recently-launched **Crusaders** (#8).

Further echoing Marvel's New Universe pattern of bringing the strongest characters together for a last-ditch mini-series, DC will do likewise in a new year six-parter, **Crucible**.

Written by Mark Waid and Brian Augustyn, **Crucible** will feature The Black Hood, Comet and, surprisingly, The Shield.

The series will be drawn by **The Ray**'s Joe Quesada and Joe Rubinstein and will, apparently, 'completely retool the Impact Universe'. ●

Fantagraphics celebrates ten years of Love & Rockets

FANTAGRAPHICS Books is shipping two special **Love & Rockets** items in August, in celebration of the title's tenth anniversary.

The $1.00 priced **10 Years of Love & Rockets** is both an introduction for new readers and a behind-the-scenes special for regular readers wanting background information on the cult title.

Its 32 pages include interviews with creators Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez, two of their favourite stories reprinted, candid photos and an illustrated character index.

The Love & Rockets Trading Card Set is a $12.95 36 card colour series featuring new artwork plus character biographies.

Printed on heavy stock, the set will be boxed and shrinkwrapped.

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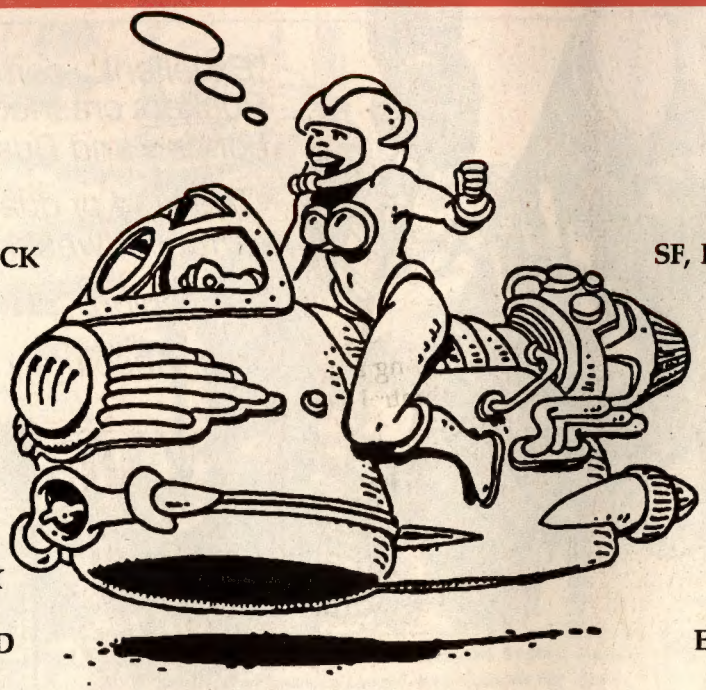

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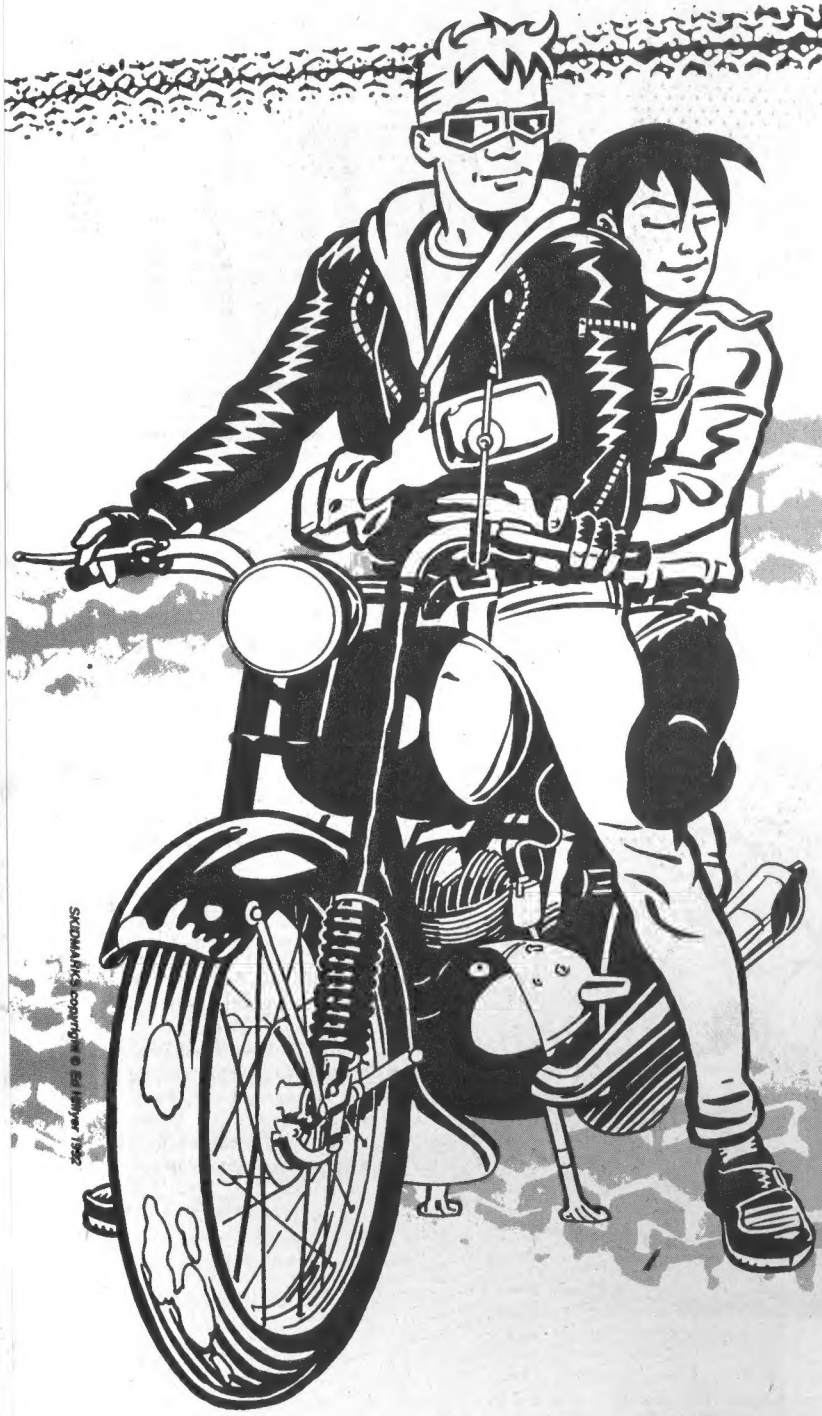

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Skidmarks is Tintin with stubble and hard-ons – a soap opera which veers from broad comedy to a more subtle and insightful look at Britain in the late 80s. It is witty, literate and funny.

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Greenhouse Warriors © Greenhouse/Phil Elliott 1992.

Jim Shooter out at Valiant

WHILE an official announcement has yet to be made, a representative of Voyager Communications (the company responsible for the Valiant line of comics) has confirmed to **Comics International** that ex-Marvel editor-in-chief Jim Shooter no longer heads up the company.

One of the original board of directors of Voyager, Shooter had been instrumental in setting up the comics line which has rapidly grown in little over a year into being the most popular producer of mainstream superhero comics outside of the massive Marvel and DC lines.

But Jim Shooter has now parted company with Voyager, reportedly following differences in opinion over the direction the line should take.

As well as masterminding the company's innovative and much copied marketing campaign, Shooter had held a position very similar to Stan Lee during the early days of Marvel Comics. He had plotted the course of the company's heroes, writing many of the scripts, and bringing the plots together into a cohesive 'shared universe' through the current **Unity** crossover.

In recent months Shooter had concentrated more on new projects and promotions, cutting back on his scriptwriting, and bringing in such established comics authors as Steve Englehart and David Michelinie.

Artist turned writer Bob Layton, long-time friend and working associate of Shooter since the early 1980s, takes on the role of editor-in-chief for Valiant, while Barry Windsor-Smith will take an increased responsibility in designing new characters and new titles for the company.

Russ Cochran rethinks EC line

MUCH to the frustration of regular buyers, the reprint line of 1950s EC horror and science fiction titles is undergoing yet another change.

Since the 1970s East Coast Comics short-lived series, EC reprints have been through an alarming number of reworkings to make the line commercial.

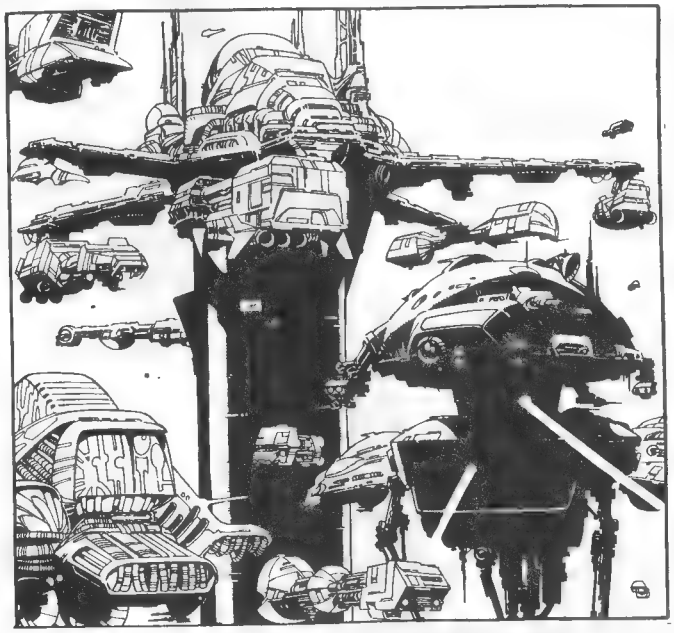
As well as the definitive black and white boxed sets, licensee Russ Cochran has produced a large format series, a standard-sized 68 page range with ex-partner Bruce Hamilton under the Gladstone imprint, another large format series (as Extra-large Comics), and a standard sized 2-issues in one series as EC Comics.

He is now starting again, numbering from first issues, but this time combining the best of his previous versions. Unlike his previous series, these will be 100% faithful, 32 page colour comics including the original letters, features and advertisements.

Priced $1.50, they begin shipping in August with **Vault of Horror 1**, **Weird Fantasy 1** and **Two-Fisted Tales 1**, all from 1950.

Mike Collins and Jose Marzan Jr's character visual for the new DC ***Peter Cannon, Thunderbolt*** *title. A revival of the 1960s Charlton comic by Pete Morisi in DC's standard $1.25 format, it launches in August. Aiming the title at the mainstream Superman-Flash-Green Lantern audience, writer/penciller Mike told* ***Comics International****, "It isn't going to be another grim and gritty book, but it isn't an Impact comic either".*

Dark Horse expands Star Wars line



Above: Cam Kennedy's rendition of the star fleet, from ***Star Wars: Dark Empire 5****. Below: Al Williamson's classic rendition of Luke, Chewbacca, Leia and Han from* ***Classic Star Wars 1***

OBVIOUSLY, WE'VE BLUNDERED INTO A FLEET ON MANEUVERS. GET US AWAY-- FAST!
AFTER THE DAMAGE WE TOOK ESCAPING THAT JUNGLE PLANET? IMPOSSIBLE, YOUR ROYALNESS...

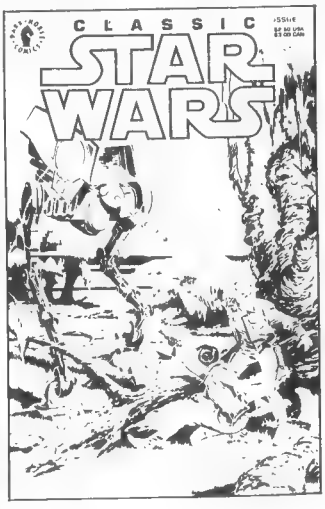
IN THE wake of the company's successful acquisition of the **Star Wars** publishing license from Lucasfilms and 20th-Century Fox, Dark Horse has announced a second title launching in August.

Classic Star Wars will represent the 1980s newspaper strip produced by Archie Goodwin and Al Williamson as a series of full colour comics, with new Williamson covers.

Priced $2.50, the 32 page monthly series plots take place between the original **Star Wars** film and the sequel, **The Empire Strikes Back**.

Because of the popularity of Dark Horse's spring 1990 launched **Star Wars: Dark Empire** series (set six years after **Return of the Jedi**) second printings of the Tom Veitch and Cam Kennedy produced first three issues will also ship in August, priced $2.95.

Star Wars: Dark Empire 5, continuing the story, also ships in August.



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Marvel launches X-ecutioner's Song

FOLLOWING the July-shipping first issue of **Cable**, Marvel will be tying in its mutant titles in a 12-part crossover for the August, September and October shipping issues of **Uncanny X-Men, X-Factor, X-Men** and **X-Force**.

The above Joe Quesada visual illustrates events following the secrets revealed in the 2-issue **Cable** series, which convince Stryfe that it is time to launch his assault on the mutant heroes.

It begins with an assassination attempt on Charles Xavier and leads to the kidnapping of Scott Summers and Jean Grey. These events convince the X-Men to split into two groups, the blue and the gold, to rescue their team mates, and to take on X-Force.

X-Factor is also called in on the mission as Xavier's life hangs in the balance.

The entire series will be polybagged containing one of 12 trading cards, a different one being in each issue.

FOLLOWING a false start in 1991, Wisconsin-based publisher, Kitchen Sink Press is resoliciting the 14th ***Li'l Abner*** *book which compiles the 1948 Al Capp daily strips. Publisher Denis Kitchen had taken to the idea of reducing the size to a cheaper standard 11 x 8.5" size for his chronological reprint volumes following a dip in sales last year. But, confessing that* ***Li'l Abner*** *is his favourite comic strip, Kitchen delayed publication, and has finally decided to revert to the full 12 x 9" hardback format of the first 12 editions. Volume 13 is currently available at the larger size, but with the promised lower price of $16.95 (softcover) and $24.95 (hardback). Volume 14, with an introduction by Harlan Ellison, will follow in August.*

Marvel revives Dracula adversaries

BROTHERS Andy and Adam Kubert provide the (above) cover art for **Nightstalkers**, starring Marvel's revived **Tomb of Dracula** characters Hannibal King, Frank Drake and Blade the Vampire Killer.

Part five of the "Rise of the Midnight Sons" saga, this 48 page first issue will be written by Dan Chichester, drawn by Ron Garvey and Tom Palmer, and feature the three heroes out to destroy John Blaze and Ghost Rider.

Polybagged, the issue will feature the fifth part of the massive Midnight Sons poster.

Priced $2.75, **Nightstalkers 1** ships to direct sale comic shops on September 1st.

The end of the Midnight Sons

The above cover artwork by the son and father team of Andy and Joe Kubert marks the end of Marvel's expansive "Rise of the Midnight Sons" saga in **Ghost Rider 31**.

All the newly introduced characters come together in this issue, written by Howard Mackie, which also features a foldout centrespread and a free poster.

Just as Lilith is about to give birth to a new brood, the Devil's daughter and her demon brood are confronted by the combined might of Ghost Rider, Morbius, the Nightstalkers, Doctor Strange, and the Darkhold Redeemers.

But to defeat Lilith, they must stop her strongest spawn, Dan Ketch. Priced $2.50, **Ghost Rider 31** is a 32 page polybagged issue shipping on September 8.

IN BRIEF

Vintage Kurtzman

LONG before he contributed to the EC line and created MAD for publisher William M. Gaines, Harvey Kurtzman had a massive following through his late '40s and early '50s single page strips and short stories, titled *Hey Look!*

Kitchen Sink is offering a softcover 208 page complete collection of the strips for $15.95 and a 600 copy limited signed and numbered hardback for $29.95.

Both editions ship in August.

Spider-Slayers saga

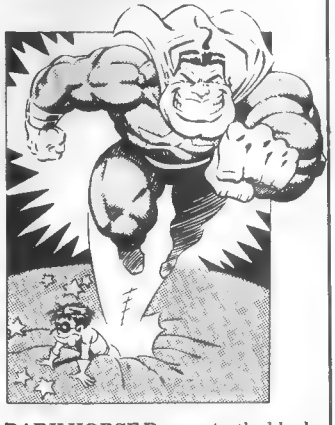
THE new **Amazing Spider-Man** serial, running in the fortnightly shipping issues 368-373 is titled *Invasion of the Spider Slayers*.

Beginning in the September 8 shipping #368 by David Michelinie and Mark Bagley, the six issues' back up stories will feature different supporting characters' reaction to the return of Peter Parker's parents.

Return of the Carrot

ADDING yet another established title to its roster, Dark Horse takes over the publishing of Bob Burden's **Flaming Carrot** with issue 28, shipping July 28, priced $2.25.

Interact-O-Rama



DARK HORSE Presents, the black and white 32 page monthly anthology, features a create-it-yourself interactive comics story in its August 4 shipping 65th issue.

You decide who is worth saving in a story drawn by the *Roachmill* team of Rich Hedden and Tom McWeeney.

The issue also contains the Manny Coto and Alan (**Red Dwarf**) Burrows *Dr Giggles* strip originally planned for its own title.

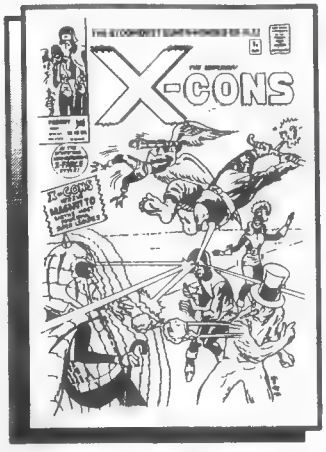
Marvel fortnightlies

THE NEXT Marvels to switch to temporary fortnightly frequency are **The Mighty Thor** (#453 to 458) and **Excalibur** (#55 to 60).

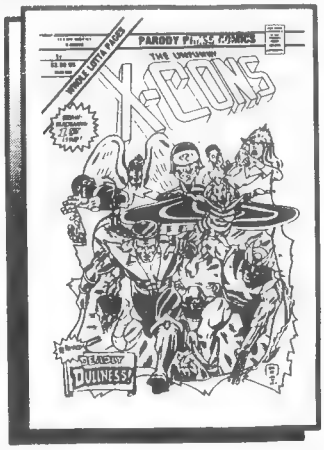
With Alan Davis having boosted **Excalibur**'s sales, Marvel is doubling the frequency despite Davis being unable to produce an issue in two weeks. Risking the same implosion as happened when he was last off the book, fill-in issues will be produced by Scott Lobdell and artists Scott Kollins and Joe Madureira (#57-60), with Davis handling the plotting.

Sledgehammer subtlety

FROM the creators of **X-Farce**, Parody Press is adding to the Marvel-snubbing use of X-titled comics in its new satire, **X-Cons**.



The three versions, numbered X, Y and Z, have $2.50 cover prices and cover spoof **Uncanny X-Men 1**, **Giant-Size X-Men 1** and the new



X-Men 1. It has to be easier than new ideas, but how long before Marvel takes action against these blatant cash-ins.

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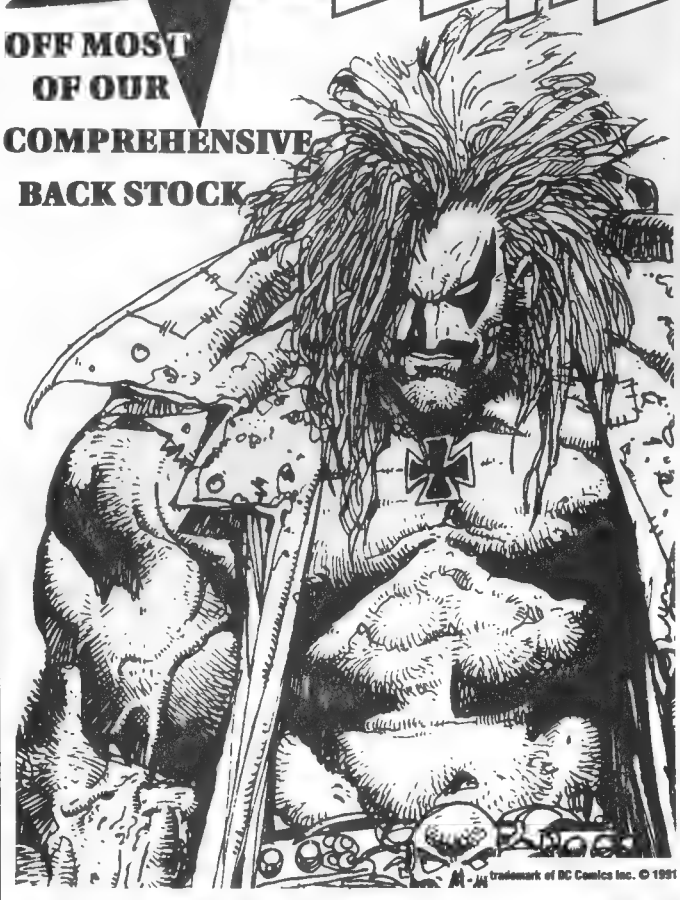

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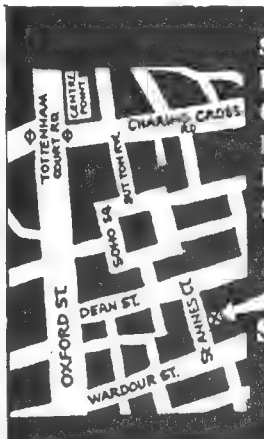

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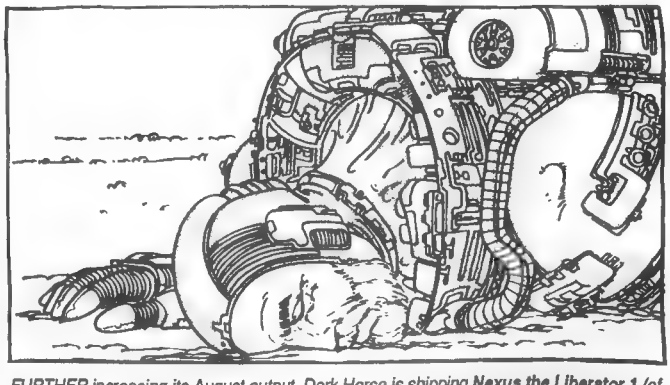
JAPANESE monster fan Art Adams is lending his considerable drawing talents to his own co-scripted (with Randy Stradley) Dark Horse deluxe ***Godzilla Colour Special #1****. Shipping on August 4, the 40 page $3.50 title pits Godzilla against the ancient demon of Kurukai.*

Marvel plans new Masterworks

MARVEL has scheduled its next set of four **Marvel Masterworks** reprint hardbacks for release in Autumn.

Leading will be the 21st volume featuring the **Tales of Suspense 39-50** first Iron Man stories by Lee, Heck, Ditko and Kirby (September 1, $34.95).

Set to follow are **Fantastic Four 31-40** (including Annual 2); the post-Ditko early John Romita **Spider-Man** issues and the long-overdue Lee & Ditko *Doctor Strange* stories from **Strange Tales 110, 111** and **114-141**.



FURTHER increasing its August output, Dark Horse is shipping ***Nexus the Liberator 1*** *(of 4; $2.50; Petrucha, Calimee and Nyberg) and the above-illustrated* ***Critical Error*** *oneshot by John Byrne. This 32 page colour $2.50 title first appeared in black and white in* ***The Art of John Byrne*** *and is unique in that the entire story is told without words.*

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★ Accommodation will be at a nearby halls of residence for the night of Saturday September 19th and will cost £20 (included breakfast). Applications for accommodation must reach us by **Monday August 24th 1992.**

Overnight Film Festival
★ Last year's overnight film show held at the **Scala Cinema** was a great success with both convention attendees and the general public, and we hope to repeat the event this year on **Saturday September 19th.**

Costume Parade
★ **Everyone who enters the contest wearing a proper costume will get £10 refunded! Changing rooms will be provided. The contest will be held on Saturday afternoon.** ***(Please see application coupon)***

The Convention
★**In attendance at the convention will be representatives from the major comic companies including Marvel, DC, Dark Horse, Fleetway and Tundra.**
★ There will be interviews and discussions featuring the convention guests, exhibitions of artwork, quizzes, and opportunities to obtain autographs and sketches.
★ Comic dealers will be selling rare back issues in addition to the latest titles, graphic novels, posters and other comics related merchandise. There will also be many pages of original artwork for sale.
★ This year's auction proceeds will again go to worthwhile causes. Artwork from the special convention booklet will up for bidding.

Registration
★ You should receive your convention badge and registration note within two weeks of application, or sooner if you apply near the deadline.
★ **IMPORTANT:** If you do not receive your registration form and badge by **Friday Septeber 11th** write to us immediately, preferably including a telephone number where you can be contacted.
★ **IMPORTANT: You must enclose a stamped and self-addressed envelope with your application so that we can return your badge and registration form. If you do not include a SAE your application will not be processed.**

Other Matters
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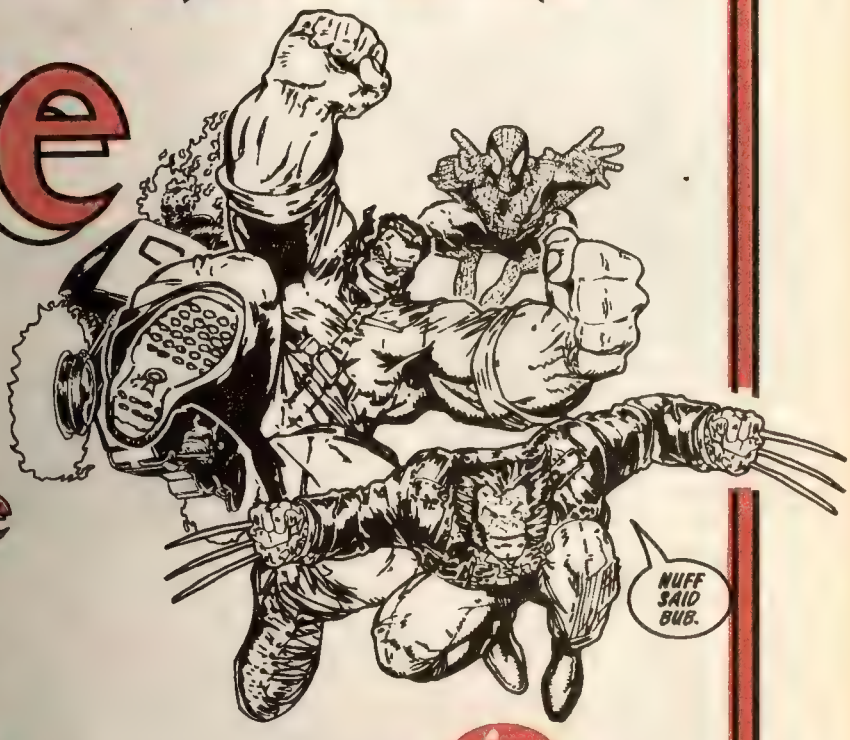

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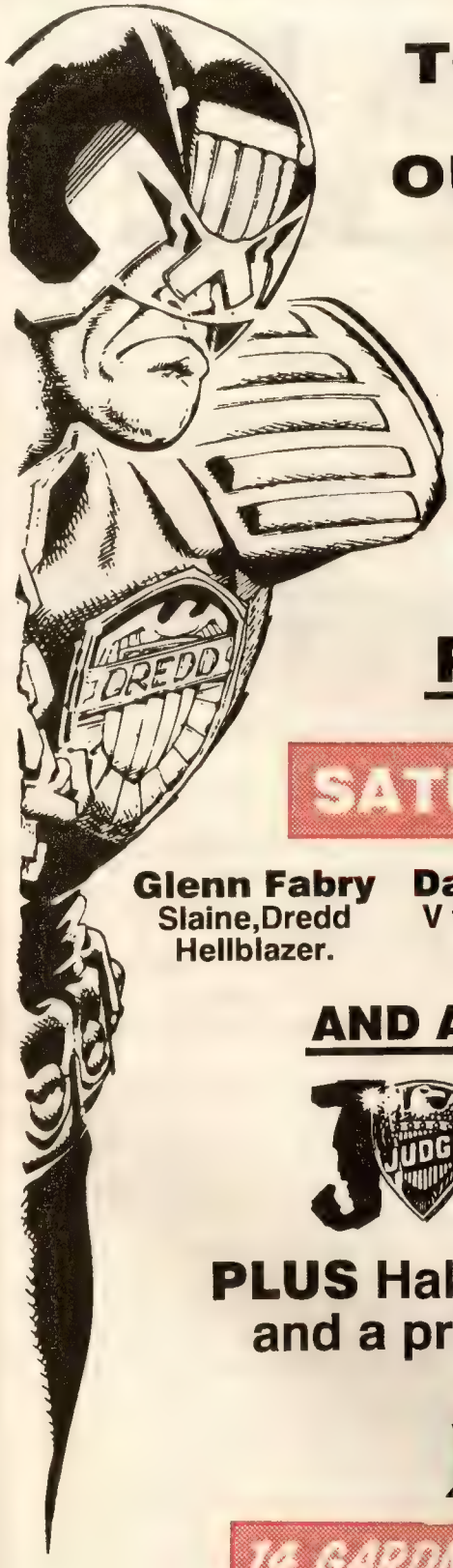

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NEWS europe

The next wave for UK comics

FOLLOWING the number of failed new titles in the last year, there was a growing amount of scepticism about the future of the British comics industry as American product, through imports and UK reprints, began to dominate the market.

But recently, there has been a resurgence in British titles, offering creators an alternative to working for either Fleetway or America.

Following a shakey start, Marvel UK's **Overkill** is gaining momentum and while no details are yet available for **Red Dwarf**, Fleetway's **Thunderbirds** has been a massive success, encouraging the company to procees with a companion title, **Stingray**, now set for an October launch.

Hawk Books continues to produce its exquisite large format editions of classic British strips with the lavish **Dan Dare Volume 6; Rogue Planet** currently available.

Documenting the world of comics, three books are currently in preparation; Paul Gravett's **Penguin Book of Comics**, Richard Reynolds' **Super Heroes: A Modern Mythology** (for academic publishers B. T. Batsford) and **Guardian** journalist Roger Sabin's study of the medium.

Together with the continuing line of graphic novels from Gollancz, the soon-to-be-launched Mandarin line from Octopus and Wolf Publishing's new **Phantom** monthly, the recession in British comics may be fading.

Ola Solanke's new tabloid sized style and arts glossy, **The Canal**, has given an extensive part of its latest issue over to comics. Fleetway's Igor Goldkind argues a convincing case for the future of the medium, in his provokatively titled article, *Comics are Crap*, which is followed by biographies of and colour artwork by Andrew Dison and Sean Phillips. (**The Canal**; £3.50; Suite 1, 155 Kings Road, London SW3 5TX.

The Society of Strip Illustration has also entered the publishing market, with its quarterly **Comics Forum**. While the group obviously underanticipated the demand for their magazine, with number one selling out in days, the second issue 64 page issue will be available in August, priced £2.50. Features in the magazine include in-depth interviews with Neil Gaiman and Peter Bagge.

Preston's *Parallel Games* is finally publishing its **Adventures of Luther Arkwright: The Role Playing Game** (originally announced for April release) set backs including the disappearance of the financier and a misunderstanding with the printer!

The Cartoon Art Trust presents The Art of Laughter exhibition

AN EXHIBITION of Cartoonists' and collectors' favourite pieces of original cartoon art is to go on display at London's Barbican Centre from August 29 until October 4.

The display, entitled *The Art of Laughter*, should perfectly complement the centre's other exhibitions of contemporary caricature and the photographic collages of John Heartfield.

Presented by The Cartoon Art Trust, *The Art of Laughter* attracted a total audience of 20,000 when on display at Oxford's Ashmolean Museum earlier this year.

With free admission, it celebrates more than a century of British cartoons, and displays original drawings by 42 cartoonists reflecting the distinctly Britih sense of humour across the decades.

It features H. M. Bateman's society satires, Heath Robinson's renowned contraptions, David Low's powerful comentaries, Donald McGill's seaside postcard sauciness; Giles' family favourites, Searles' wicked schoolgirls of St Trinians, Ralph Steadman's anarchistic savagery, and many more.

Lionel Lambourne of the Victoria & Albert Museum and Amanda-Jane Doran, curator of the **Punch** Library have selected the cartoons from the Cartoon Art Trust's own collection, as well as from the collections of connoisseurs and cartoonists themselves.

Underlining the pressing need for a permanent home to preserve and display this lively part of Britain's heritage, the 6-week exhibition will include guided tours, a cartoonists workshop, educational activities and, through the Paul Hamlyn Foundation's support, a fully-illustrated catalogue.

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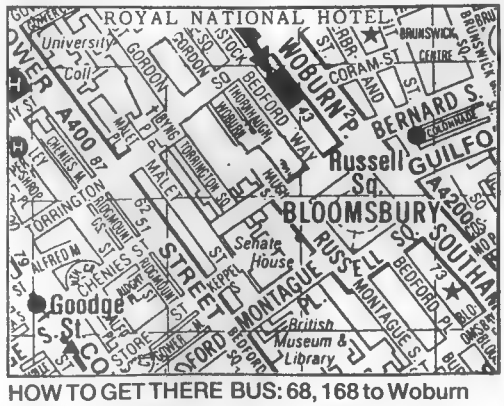

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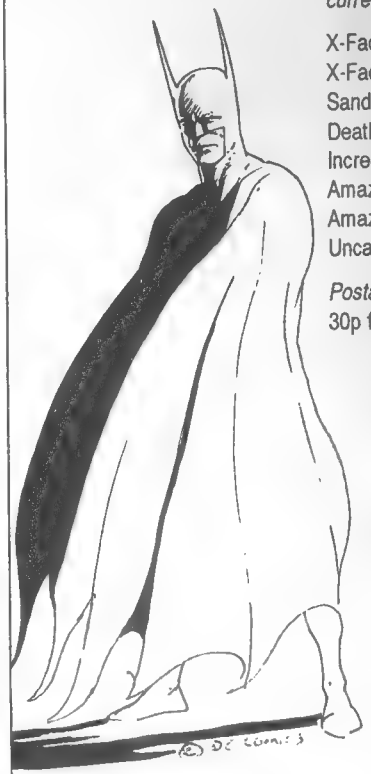

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Gollancz launches Gaiman & McKean graphic novel

I saw the doctor.
I'm not going to be writing the script, Inanna.
We're not going to make the film.
She...
She says... I probably don't have very long to live. That I...
I'm dying, Inanna.
I'm sorry. Please leave. We'll talk later.

WHILE many book publishers left the graphic novel field as hastily as they entered it, Victor Gollancz reconfirms its faith in the format with the publication of **Signal to Noise** on July 9th.

Priced £9.95, the large format trade paperback by Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean had been originally commissioned by the style magazine **The Face** in 1989, and has already gained a strong following through its serialisation.

Expanded and revised for this new edition, it tells a story part-based on the life and self-predicted death of Sergei Eisenstein, a film director, looking back on his work and re-evaluating his life.

Taking its title from computer jargon, referring to the extraction of signal from noise in a transmitted message, the book has Sergei asking of his life "Was any of it signal, or was it all merely noise?"

Neil Gaiman's current popularity and high profile through his **Sandman** title for DC and the best-selling novel **Good Omens** (which he co-wrote with Terry Pratchett) should provide Gollancz with deservedly high sales.

In Gaiman reuniting with Dave McKean, his partner from the World SF Award winning comic **Black Orchid**, Gollancz has the added appeal of an artist whose last graphic novel, **Arkham Asylum**, sold 250,000 copies worldwide.

Continuing its line, Gollancz's next graphic novel is Al (**Spiral Cage**) Davison's excellent **The Minotaur's Tale**, which is due for publication soon.

*JOHN Ridgway's draughtsmanship returns to Marvel UK's **Doctor Who Magazine** as he illustrates the Warwick Gray lead story in the September on sale £2.25 issue #191.*

Newcastle holds second successful comics auction

THE SECOND auction of comics to be held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne's Anderson & Garland raised over £3,300 in only two hours as part of the company's fine art auction held across June 9th to 12th.

72-year old Cyril Walker was particularly pleased with the results, having submitted the majority of the comics which had previously been in his garden shed.

"I started buying comics as soon as I could read, and only packed them in when I was 17 and lost interest in them," he said.

His collection included first issues of the British titles **Knockout** and **Hotspur** which were eagerly snapped up by 33 year old Adrian Ingram, who had travelled from Leicester to bid for the vintage British comics as well as early issues of **Viz**.

Adrian remarked, "I got some marvellous stuff and it was definitely worth coming up for."

He added, "I collect British comics for the nostalgia and the fun of the profit."

While bidding was hectic for old British titles, including a large run of **Rupert Annuals**, the American comics (including 1930s **King Comics** and **Popular Comics** and a range of Silver Age titles) had fewer bidders, with only *Skyrack*'s Ron Bennett from Leeds and *Comic Shack*'s Dave Shack from London competing with **Comics International** editor Derek Skinn over early Kubert titles.

Nevertheless, the auction house's John Anderson admitted being very pleased with the results, which, despite late rescheduling leading to a poor attendance, had raised higher bids than he had anticipated and had generated a large amount of press interest.

He added, "At the end of the day, comics are worth as much as people are willing to pay for them."

Phillips of Bristol will be holding the next comics auction on Saturday, September 5th and **Comics International** follows with its first London-based auction set for early October.

The Ghost Who Walks... again

COCAINE! - SOMEBODY IS SMUGGLING DRUGS INTO BENGAL WITH THE HELP OF TRAINED DOLPHINS!
THERE MUST BE OVER A KILO IN THAT BELT! THE DOLPHIN MUST BE THE COURIER BETWEEN THE SHIP OUT AT SEA AND SOMEONE HERE ON SHORE.

IN July, the newly-created Wolf Publishing will be launching the first British **Phantom** comic since the 1960s when the character appeared first in an Alan Class 68 page title, then in a World Distributors picture library, and finally as a regular strip in **TV Tornado**.

With a wealth of European material previously unseen in Britain, ex-Marvel UK publisher Robert Sutherland and *Nostalgia & Comics* proprietor Phil Clarke have teamed up to produce what they admit to be a pet project, both being keen fans of The Ghost Who Walks.

Following the Mike Higgs cover for issue one, John Ridgway and Brett Ewins will be producing new cover artwork. The accompanying visuals are by Telmang Terri, taken from the 95p cover priced full colour first issue.

FLIPS PAGES

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The winners names of our recent lucky draw, which received over 150 entrants, were selected by Dez Skinn, the editor of ***Comics International****, at the last London Comicbook Marketplace. Prizes are en route to:*
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121	vg+	£55.00
125	vg+	£60.00
135	fn-	£67.50
136	fn-	£67.50
139	fn-	£67.50
147	fn-	£70.00
150	fn-	£60.00
158	fn+	£100.00
	(origin retold in #158)	
159	fn+	£82.50
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COMICWATCH

Answering the demand for investment news on 'hot' titles, Comicwatch details the current average selling price of high demand comics which have recently increased rapidly in value.

Compiled by Derek G. Skinn

The **Comic Book Price Guide for Great Britain** produces a comprehensive annual overview of UK values for US comics and the various American guide magazines detail US values for America. But the UK value can fluctuate rapidly for 'key' issues through increased demand when heroes, villains or creators suddenly become popular and an annual Guide is unable to reflect this, as are US guides, which can only show demand in relation to American supply, which does not include the UK two-tier distribution system.

Comics International, with the help of retailers from across Britain, produces **Comicwatch** as a consumer aid to help follow the dramatic rise (and the occasional fall) of 'hot' books every month.

When analysing the **Comicwatch** statistics, please bear the following points in mind:

- The *average* values are taken from actual selling prices of seventeen shop and mail order retailers. These are spread across Great Britain to avoid any regional bias.
- Prices stated are for top grade, near mint copies. Average percentages for lower grades (based on the retailers' response to our questionnaire) are:
  VF = 75%; FN = 60%; VG = 45%; G = 25%; Fair = 15%; Poor (but complete) = 7.5%
- The Dealer Price Range is included to show that prices can fluctuate greatly, often based on supply levels and buying-in prices.
- Source information can be viewed (by appointment), but retailer names will be excluded, as figures are provided in confidence.

% CHANGE, TITLE & ISSUE NUMBER	average value	Dealer price extremes	Special Features
+13 Alpha Flight 106	£3.85	£1.50 - £10.00	Northstar comes out
+6 Amazing Spiderman 298	£13.25	£9.95 - £20.00	1st Venom, 1st McF
+3 Amazing Spiderman 300	£14.20	£8.50 - £18.00	1st full Venom story
+11 Amazing Spiderman 360	£1.95	£1.25 - £3.50	1st Carnage app.
+18 Amazing Spiderman 361	£3.25	£1.00 - £6.00	1st full Carnage story
+74 Amazing Spiderman 362	£2.45	£1.00 - £5.00	Carnage Part 2
+40 Amazing Spiderman 363	£1.40	£0.85 - £2.50	Carnage Part 3
+1 Astonishing Tales 25	£26.10	£4.95 - £60.00	1st Deathlok story
-15 Astonishing Tales 26	£9.25	£3.95 - £20.00	2nd Deathlok story
-4 Avengers 263	£3.20	£2.00 - £4.50	1st X-Factor
+9 Captain America 180	£3.50	£1.95 - £5.00	1st Nomad story
+13 Captain America 241	£18.25	£9.95 - £35.00	Punisher story
-3 Captain America 286	£3.25	£2.00 - £5.00	Deathlok story Pt 1
-3 Captain America 287	£3.10	£1.50 - £5.00	Deathlok story Pt 2
-8 Captain America 288	£2.70	£0.60 - £3.50	Deathlok story Pt 3
-13 Captain Marvel 26	£9.45	£5.00 - £12.50	2nd Thanos app.
-13 Captain Marvel 27	£6.65	£3.00 - £10.00	3rd Thanos app.
+13 Daredevil 254	£3.90	£1.00 - £6.00	1st Typhoid Mary
+11 Daredevil 257	£9.65	£3.50 - £15.00	Punisher x-over
+8 Daredevil 295	£1.35	£0.85 - £2.50	Ghost Rider x-over
+2 Darkhawk 1	£2.90	£1.00 - £5.00	1st appearance
-17 Doctor Strange 169	£28.85	£15.00 - £45.00	1st titled issue
-2 Excalibur 42	£1.90	£1.20 - £2.50	1st new look, Davis
-2 Ghost Rider 1 (1973)	£19.95	£10.00 - £30.00	Johnny Blaze version
+3 Ghost Rider 1 (1990)	£9.45	£6.95 - £13.00	1st new look app.
nc Ghost Rider 5 (1991)	£5.60	£2.75 - £8.50	Punisher story
+9 Ghost Rider 14 (1991)	£2.45	£1.45 - £3.95	1st new Johnny Blaze
+8 Ghost Rider 15 (1991)	£4.85	£1.75 - £8.50	Glow-in-dark cover
+19 Ghost Rider 25 (1992)	£2.20	£1.75 - £3.75	Pop-up centre
-9 Guardians of Galaxy 1	£4.25	£1.50 - £7.00	1st Valentino issue
+4 Incredible Hulk 330	£8.45	£4.95 - £15.00	1st David & McFarlane
+23 Incredible Hulk 340	£13.20	£4.50 - £29.95	Wolverine story
+7 Incredible Hulk 367	£4.95	£1.95 - £8.50	1st Keown artwork
+4 Incredible Hulk 377	£5.80	£1.95 - £12.95	1st 'new' Hulk
+19 Incredible Hulk 393	£2.20	£1.55 - £3.50	30th anniv giant
-10 Iron Man 55	£35.20	£7.50 - £50.00	1st Thanos app.
+5 Iron Fist 14	£28.90	£9.95 - £40.00	1st Sabretooth app.
-7 Marvel Comics 62	£1.95	£0.90 - £4.00	Deathlok story
+1 Marvel Comics 72	£3.35	£1.95 - £5.00	Weapon X begins
nc Marvel Comics 100	£1.20	£0.95 - £2.00	Wolv & Ghost Rider
+8 Marvel Spotlight 5 (1972)	£34.75	£10.00 - £50.00	1st Blaze Ghost Rider
-3 New Mutants 86	£8.40	£4.95 - £15.00	1st Cable appearance
+4 New Mutants 87	£27.00	£12.50 - £50.00	1st full Cable story
+2 New Mutants 98	£4.00	£1.50 - £5.50	1st Deadpool; X-Force
-5 New Mutants 99	£3.45	£1.50 - £5.50	Penultimate issue
+14 New Warriors 1	£10.15	£5.00 - £20.00	1st issue
new Platinum Spider-Man	£202.00	£95.00-£350.00	10,000 printrun
+10 Powerman & Iron Fist 66	£8.25	£2.95 - £20.00	2nd Sabretooth
-1 Punisher 10	£11.00	£4.95 - £14.95	Daredevil x-over
+9 Punisher 57	£2.35	£1.25 - £3.50	Lee gatefold poster
+6 Punisher War Journal 6	£6.80	£2.00 - £9.00	Wolverine story
+5 Punisher War Journal 29	£1.90	£1.30 - £2.50	Ghost Rider Part 1
+6 Punisher War Journal 30	£1.80	£1.30 - £2.50	Ghost Rider Part 2
+13 Silver Surfer 34	£6.45	£2.95 - £12.50	Return of Thanos
+18 Silver Surfer 50	£4.75	£2.50 - £6.50	metallic card cover
-6 Solo Avengers 1	£2.55	£0.75 - £5.00	1st Lee Marvel art
+18 Spectac Spider-Man 83	£6.40	£3.75 - £10.50	full Punisher origin
new Spectac Spider-Man 189	£2.60	£1.90 - £4.50	hologram; giant
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+10 X-Men 248	£8.30	£3.95 - £12.50	1st Jim Lee art
+16 X-Men 258	£4.70	£1.25 - £7.50	Wolverine story; Lee
+11 X-Men 266	£3.55	£1.25 - £5.00	1st Gambit app.
+13 X-Men 268	£5.60	£1.25 - £8.50	Lee & Williams begin
+17 X-Men 281	£3.40	£1.95 - £6.00	New line-up, 1st Byrne
+6 X-Men 282	£2.75	£1.75 - £5.00	1st Bishop app.
+3 Deathstroke Terminator 1	£2.75	£2.00 - £4.00	First issue
-6 Green Lantern 40	£78.50	£40.00-£140.00	1st Crisis tie-in
-7 Green Lantern 59	£49.50	£35.00-£70.00	1st Guy Gardner
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+18 Magnus 1	£5.55	£1.95 - £8.00	1st Valiant issue
+15 Next Men 1	£2.60	£1.65 - £5.00	Dark Horse; Byrne
+14 Next Men 0	£2.35	£1.50 - £5.00	Dark Horse; Byrne
+4 Predator 1 (1989)	£8.75	£4.95 - £12.95	Dark Horse mini
+39 Solar 1	£4.40	£1.95 - £7.50	1st Valiant issue
new Solar 10	£4.50	£2.50 - £6.50	Valiant; scarce
new Unity 0	£2.60	£1.25 - £4.00	Valiant; giveaway
+1 Vampire Lestat 1	£8.85	£3.50 - £10.00	Innovation
+ 58 X-O Manowar 1	£3.40	£1.75 - £7.50	Valiant; 1st issue

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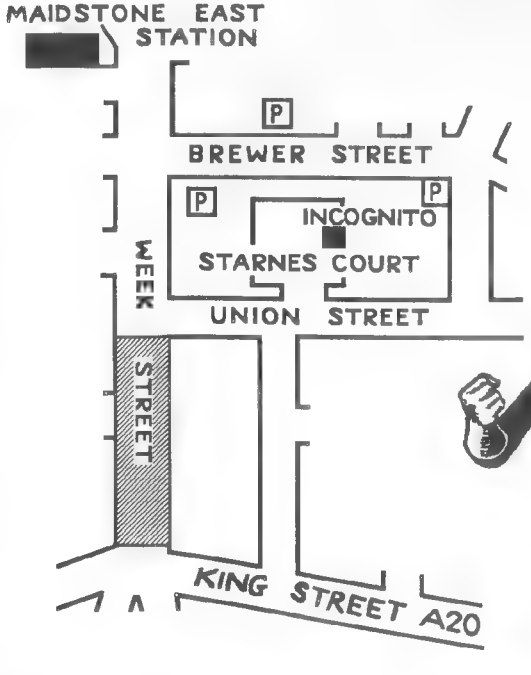

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MEDIA FILE

Associate editor Sarah Bolesworth looks at recent media coverage of comics and related product

COMICS historian Denis Gifford, in his obituary of **MAD Magazine** publisher Bill Gaines in **The Independent** (5.6.'92) effectively crossed the academic Rubicon by inaccurately reporting past events to make them agree with own opinions.

In his opening paragraph, he styled William Gaines as the man who "singlehandedly caused the collapse of the American comic-book industry by his creation of the "horror comic.".

Given Gaines' sense of humour, he would probably have enjoyed this undeserved credit immensely. But to attribute the McCarthy-style targeting of the entire comics industry during the mid-fifties to one publisher's activities is a gross simplification of the social and political developments that led to the foundation of the Comics Code.

During the '45 to '55 period American society was undergoing immense social changes. The liberalised post-war entertainments industries were set on a collision course with politicians preoccupied with the Cold War.

No joke, this was America

Hysterical nationalism demanded that a new agenda should be set for a secure future. Sex, horror and detective fiction were all regarded as being potentially subversive of American culture.

The linking of creators with communism during the purges of the film industry during the late forties had created an atmosphere of suspicion, which, in the case of comics, was highlighted by Fredric Wertham's paranoia-inducing **Seduction of the Innocent**.

Denis Gifford states that Gaines was a man who, when summoned to the US State Judiciary hearings (on Juvenile Delinquency), "was condemned out of his own mouth". This serves to emphasise his message that Gaines was a charlatan in his dealings with the industry.

The implication that Gaines was solely responsible for the establishment of the Comics Code Authority is symptomatic of a deficient understanding of the climate of the time and of Gaines' real contribution to the development of comics and humour magazines.

MAD Magazine, with its anarchic, iconoclastic humour was very much in keeping with the renewed popularity of social and political satire, and the international success of the title was due to a universal rise in anti-establishment feeling that was to be the key-note of Fifties and Sixties culture.

History given the lie

Denis Gifford's obituary of Martin Goodman, founder of Marvel Comics in **The Independent** (15.6.'92) showed the same lack of regard for accuracy as his earlier William Gaines' piece.

Beyond the unfortunate opening gaff of calling Marvel Comics a "comic-book chain", a basic lack of research led to glaring omissions. These included Goodman's formative experiences with Hugo Gernsback's innovative SF pulp publishing house in Manhattan during the '30s. It was here that Goodman gained the knowledge of and feel for the fiction market which enabled him to launch - successfully - **Marvel Comics** 1, featuring the Human Torch and Sub-Mariner, in 1939.

Gifford concludes his obituary of Goodman with the comment, "Although too late on the scene to be regarded as a pioneer of comic books... (he) took American comic books to circulation heights undreamed of by the pioneers".

In a biographical leap from 1941 (covered in depth) to 1968 (when Goodman sold the company), no mention is made of the impact Marvel had, thanks to Goodman's 1961 directive to Stan Lee to create a line of contemporary super-heroes.

No mention is made of the fact that circulations of war-time comics were as high as those later achieved by Marvel. And no mention of Goodman's activities after 1972.

When newspapers are prepared to give over space to obituaries of significant players in the comics medium, it is the task of comics historians to *explain* the relevance of people like Gaines and Goodman within the wider context of their times. It is their responsibility to ensure that their research is painstakingly accurate, and is, as far as possible, non-partisan.

Revisionist versions of comics' history are just another symptom of the UK comics industry's lack of ability to project itself into the wider entertainment and arts arenas. After the fiasco of the graphic novel "revolution", we need to try harder to illuminate - not obscure - comics for other media and thus, other potential readers.

For the facts...

For definitive information on William Gaines and his work, try **The MAD World of William M. Gaines** ("the heroic battler of censorship, McCarthyism and the State of Oklahoma") by Frank Jacobs (Bantam Books).

An exhaustive history of Martin Goodman's career can be found in **Pure Images** 2 ($2.50; Pure Imagination; Greg Theakston 1990).

Meanwhile, in real time...

Neil Gaiman - noted for his ability to translate the world of comics in other media - is working on *The Underside*, described as "a Dr Who for the '90s", to be handled by comics aficionado Lenny Henry's Crucial Productions. (**Time Out**, June 10-17). Now there's a man who knows his comics culture...

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COMMENT

***Comment** is a forum to enable fans and professionals alike to express their personal points of view on aspects of the comics industry.*

As such, the opinions stated do not necessarily reflect those of the publication, and space will be given in subsequent issues to opposing views. Editing of accepted manuscripts will be done only as a matter of grammar, clarity and space consideration.

Valiant's lack of unity

Comment by Andrew Harvey, Leytonstone.

JIM SHOOTER came in for a lot of criticism during his editor-in-chief period at Marvel. From what I've heard, seen and read about him, I doubt if I'd really like him. But his personality has little to do with his importance to comics.

There seems to be no denying he made big profits for Marvel with his marketing ideas (the biggest being **Secret Wars**, which, with its multiple licensed spin-offs put DC's **Super Powers** to shame). But along the route, trying to make Marvel more professional (and more profitable) for its big new parent company, he alienated a lot of creators who'd previously had an easy ride through the assortment of writer/editors promoted beyond their own competence to the editor-in-chief role.

When Shooter was hired, Stan Lee nicknamed him Jim "Trouble" Shooter, because apparently part of his brief was to sort the creators out. It seems Stan had never been able to fire people, no matter how incapable of meeting deadlines, it went against his persona as Mr Nice Guy.

So, when Stan was bundled off to Hollywood, it fell to Shooter to clean up the company, get the books back on schedule, and the stories back on track, following Marvel's creative void of the 1970s.

Those used to an easy life couldn't handle the new structure and left. But before too long, the lines of allegiance were being drawn up. Then, according to the press, he and big gun John Byrne fell out. Creators complained that they wanted Shooter out. Management decided. Shooter went, Byrne stayed -- at least for a while.

Though Shooter's approach may not have been too tactful or diplomatic, his methods worked for the company. Marvel did prosper under Shooter, and has continued to do so, never falling back into its 1970s rut.

But Shooter must have felt angry about losing management's support. He'd spent most of his life learning the ropes, it was what he was best at. So when Marvel was to be sold (again), he saw a chance.

Even when his Wall Street-financed attempt to buy Marvel failed against Ron Perelman's higher bid, he convinced his backers that they could still make money from the comics industry, by setting up their own 1960s Marvel-style comics company.

His openly acknowledged aim was to out-gun Marvel, and through Valiant it looked like he was heading in the right direction.

But now he's gone and, like so many times before, the remaining directors have replaced him with artists. Doesn't anyone learn from history?

Remember when ex-**Flash** artist Carmine Infantino suddenly became the top man at DC? Great covers, great art, but terrible stories. Because artists have a different comics vision to writers and editors. They want comics to look great, but the actual story content and internal logic become secondary. They're no longer stories in pictures, simply dynamic visuals linked by dialogue.

Also, having worked from home, they're ill-equipped to deal with office politics and management imperatives. Not only do they often make ineffectual middlemen between creators and accountants, but the industry is the poorer for the absence of what they're best at, drawing.

Look at top creators in charge of projects. Steranko and Neal Adams as publishers, Jack Kirby (without Joe Simon or Stan Lee to curb his excesses), Frank Miller's post-**Dark Knight Returns** creations and, more recently, the Image team of artists as self-publishers. Why have they all failed to produce more substantial work than in the disciplined framework of DC and Marvel?

Stuff can look great, but the medium's still about storytelling first. Characters are what holds it together, icons. A good solid idea like Batman, Judge Dredd, X-Men, TMNTurtles and so on can survive with bad artists, but bad ideas *cannot* survive no matter how good the artist (Neal Adams' Continuity being a classic example of wasted excellence).

There are very few people with the knowledge, ability, direction and the balls to get things moving commercially, on time, and professionally. Shooter has proved himself to be one of the few.

There are very few good actors who can also direct and produce. Like films, comics require teamwork. If each is an expert in his field, the product shines. When one overstretches himself, all credibility can be lost (Image and Continuity, again). Then everybody loses.

Barry Windsor-Smith and Bob Layton are great storytellers. But if Valiant is to continue to grow and provide mainstream competition, let's hope that in their new capacities, filling Shooter's very large shoes, they're better administrators than Carmine Infantino, Neal Adams and the rest.

They've got a tough act to follow.

Less quantity and more quality required

Comment by Roger Miller, Willesden, London.

QUANTITY doesn't mean quality; I'm referring to the continuous production line of new Batman, Punisher, Spider-Man and X-books which can be compared to battery farming animals: low quality with high profits.

When you collect things like **Uncanny X-Men**, **Amazing Spider-Man** and **X-Factor**, it becomes increasingly difficult to keep up with the new related titles being released.

First we had **Amazing Spider-Man**, then **Spectacular Spider-Man**, then **Web of Spider-Man** and the Spider-Man reprint monthly, **Marvel Tales**. McFarlane came along and did great work on the **Amazing Spider-Man** - providing an excuse for another new Spider-Man book, by him. However, the subsequent quality of work on **Amazing Spider-Man** dropped as soon as McFarlane left for the new title.

A year or so later, when McFarlane felt it was time to spread his wings with an independent enterprise, the quality of the *new* Spider-Man book plummeted. But, without McFarlane, there was no reason for it to exist. But, of course, the fans continue to buy it. The same thing is happening to the standard of the new **X-Men** title (without Jim Lee), and **X-Force** (without Liefeld). Had these creators not been so popular, the new titles wouldn't have started. Marvel has only a limited amount of talent to go around.

Then we have the cross-overs, with stories continuing in titles which otherwise are poor sellers. We also have all the gold, silver, platinum and bagged editions, glow-in-the-dark covers, pop-ups, holograms, trading cards, etc.

I only want to buy a comic! I long for the day when I can pick up a comic *without* these gimmicks.

But even if Stan Lee said to me, "Read my lips, no more gimmicks," I wouldn't be able believe him.

Finally, I recently sent for a catalogue - the company shall remain anonymous - and saw **Amazing Spider-Man** 362 for £3. I could get this comic in a newsagent for cover price. How can mail order companies justify these over-inflated prices for titles that have just gone on sale?!

*(Editor's note: **Amazing Spider-Man** is actually not distributed to newsagents in Britain because of the Marvel UK **Complete Spider-Man** reprint, and is available in direct sale comic shops only. Bad example, Roger.)*

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Professional standards

Comment by Keith Pottage, Barnsley, Yorkshire.

I'M SURE I can assume that because you're reading this, you're a comics fan. But are you a fan of both the artwork and the writing? Do they impress you equally?

It's my assertion that the standard of artwork in both US and UK comics is extremely high. The talent oozes from the work of most comics artists, whether it is colour or black and white, realistic, stylised, action-packed, humorous or whatever.

But I genuinely feel that the standard of writing is very low indeed.

Why? There are several reasons.

The first is that if you're a young artist with talent, comics offer a great outlet for your work. The commissions are as regular as the title's frequency, it is reasonably well-paid and your work is taken seriously.

But if you're a talented young writer, you're probably going to want to write novels, magazine or newspaper articles, plays, scripts for television and so on. Comics offer very few outlets (particularly in the UK), low pay and no status whatsoever outside its own field.

Secondly, everyone knows whether or not they can draw. I personally couldn't sketch a wobbly line, so there's no way I could con myself into working as an artist, in comics or anywhere else.

It's a field in which only people who can draw well will ever get on. But, and this is a very prevalent "but", everyone thinks they can write. Either because they're reasonably intelligent, or because it's easy to read somebody else's story and think "I could do better than that, because I'd change so-and-so and improve it", or because standards of writing are so low in comics.

The third reason concerns the readership. Whilever it is perceived to be relatively young, comics' publishers and editors will feel that comics buyers can probably assess artwork well but not the writing. It's easy to get the feeling that there's an attitude of "This story-plotline-character-dialogue isn't much at all, but if we tell our readers it's brilliant loudly enough, a lot of them will believe it".

Why else do you think all those UK comics aimed at what was laughingly called *a mature audience* failed? It wasn't the artwork, some of which was excellent. It was the dreadful standard of writing, based on the theory that *mature* readers wanted sex, foul language and often horrifying politics.

The way to capture a mature audience is surely to employ writers with a very high standard of

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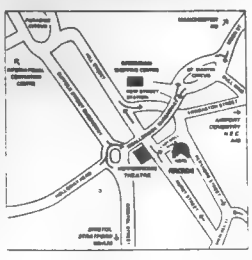

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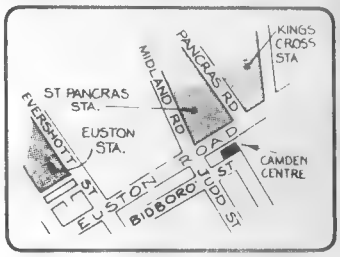

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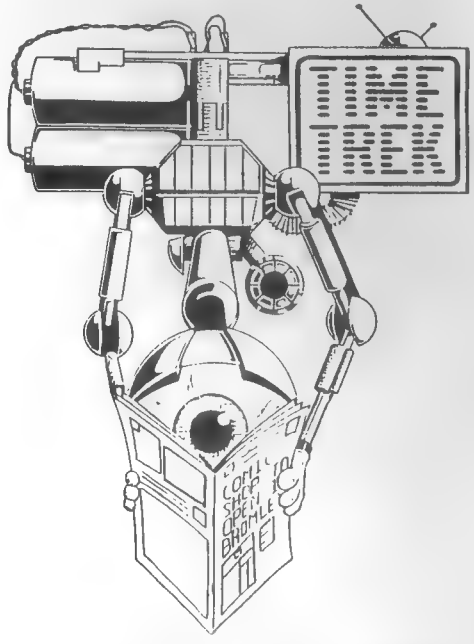

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penmanship. But such people are terribly lacking in the industry.

I'm 36 and I've been reading comics for 25 years and I really believe the only comics writer who could make it in other mediums is Alan Moore.

Pat Mills (**Slaine, Marshal Law**) and Peter David (**Hulk, X-Factor**) might as well, but otherwise the vast majority of those highly regarded writers are only highly regarded because comics demand lower standards of writing compared with any other field.

It's like you raving about the star football player on your neighbourhood team. Unless he goes on to the very top of the pros, it has to be admitted he only looks good because the really good performers are elsewhere, operating at a much higher level.

I began making my living as a professional writer nearly ten years ago in (you've guessed) comics. This was partly because I love them, and partly because they were the easiest and I soon sold one or two stories (remember IPC's **Scream**?). But I quickly moved on to end up writing for a wide range of top end of the market magazines and newspapers, as well as an award-winning play and my first novel.

That's been my apprenticeship, nearly ten years. And yet who do I find are *writers* when I read comics? Artists, production and sales staff, editors and editors' friends, all of whom think they can write.

How many of them would risk sending in their work under a false name as an unsolicited offering to get an unbiased reaction? None, of course, what a stupid notion.

I recently read an interview with the editor of **2000AD** in which he said, "Don't send us your work unless you can do better than the people we already use". A good policy. I've just sent him a few stories.

Yet, on reading an early draft of my submission to him, I was surprised to discover I was subconsciously writing down, to a lower standard than in my newspaper and stage work because I was writing for comics. Or was I doing the right thing? Sadly, perhaps I was.

I think the way to improve comics and bring the medium to a new wider audience is to bring in professional writers of quality, not new young writers who were "pretty good at English at school".

This would benefit the readers *and* the industry, if not a lot of the people who call themselves writers at the moment.

(Editor's note: In the 1940s through to the mid-1960s, both American and British comics did employ the talents of multi-media authors. Gardner Fox, Otto Binder, Edward Hamilton, Harry Harrison, Donne Avenell, Mickey Spillane and Angus Allen are names which spring to mind. Trained professionals, they would recognise the target (mass) market and write for it.

Without adventure strips and pulp fiction as training grounds, the industry now has a smaller selection and possibly a more introspective aim.)

Reader rapport

Comment by Eddie Huddlestone, Salford, Lancs.

IN THE March issue of **Comics International**, you ran a *Comment* from Peter Haines, a reader in his young twenties, who was proud of his **Spider-Man** and **Punisher** collection with their *"generally stunning artwork"* and *"increasingly intelligent storytelling"*

He considered Silver Age titles "*milked dry of their dubious historical worth*".

I am one of the *"increasingly older men"* he mentioned, being in my fifties and still going strong. Although I have a sentimental regard for the Golden and Silver Age of comics, there are reasons for collecting them that he is obviously unaware of.

Although the artwork may seem crude in many issues, the overwhelming impression that filters through to many readers young and old(er) is the love and care that these innovators had for their product.

Like during the early days of science fiction, these creators had a close rapport with their readers which shone through in their work. They knew what readers wanted.

The fact that these comics are regularly increasing in value is a bonus rather than a reason for hanging on to them. They are old friends, like your favourite armchair, or your car. You immediately feel comfortable with them. They won't disappoint you.

With the exception of pre-announced Imaginary Stories, none of the current trends of sudden death and equally sudden resurrection takes place. Characters do not change their personalities with each new contributor. Just the reliable heroes and villains in familiar situations, representing an reassuring factor in the unstable war and post-war conditions (not that things are more stable now). Their presence reassured and even gave readers faith that good would always triumph. But that was before anti-heroes.

Nowadays, with increasingly wilder storylines, characters expressing sexual preferences, murder being done in the name of justice, death everywhere, and heroes even changing colour (in a blatant race hype), the creators are revealing their increasing desperation to be noticed, to be different rather than creating a rapport with the readers.

Thankfully, just as in earlier times, quality does shine through, even though it results in smaller sales.

Hopefully, on comics next 50 year anniversary, all the gimmicks will be forgotten and people will remember our modern age of comics for the quality titles that are being published, just as we older readers remember our Golden Age and Silver Age gems.

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Key to abbreviations used:
1 & 2 + 3 = Writer & penciller + inker
sqbd = perfect bound; squared spine; without staples
b&w = black & white content
pc = part-colour content
hbk = hardback (book) edition
tpbk = trade paperback, squarebound comicbook sized
Xpg = X number of interior pages
V = violence; N = nudity; S = sex

SHIPPING:
AUGUST 1992

All 32pg colour titles unless stated

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM

<> **Cerebus 161** (Sim & Gerhard) *Mothers and Daughters: Part 11.* b&w $2.25

AC COMICS

<> **The Best of the West** (Black and Harper & Ayers, Belfi + Lane) Summarising and illustrating the series originally published by Magazine Enterprises. Featured are *The Durango Kid, The Haunted Horsemen, Redmask, The Presto Kid, The Black Phantom, White Indian* (Frank Frazetta). Also includes glossaries of work by Frazetta, Powell and Ayers. pc. $9.95

<> **Femforce 52** (Black & Ayers + Heike) Comics-within-comics story-line as fictional villain The Claw and his supporting cast are manifested in Femforce reality - and it's Joan Wayne's task to deal with them. Continues in **Good Girl Art Quarterly** 9. b&w $2.75

<> **Good Girl Art Quarterly 9** (Black & Ayers + Heike) Continued story-line from **Femforce** 52. Garganta heads up a Femforce team to retrieve a nuclear bomb following a request from the US government. But there's been a security leak somewhere, and The Claw now knows of the bomb's existence... pc. $3.95

<> **Jungle Girls 9** Featuring *Wild Girl* (Lubbers) and *Tiger Girl* (Webb). Cover: Baker and Doolin. b&w $2.95

ADVENTURE

<> **Dracula: The Suicide Club 1** (of 4; S. Jones & Ross) Dracula's popped up in London, and targets the police officer who's been investigating the mysterious deaths that have been happening in the capital. $2.50

<> **Rust 4** (S. Miller & Hester + Parks) The degenerating metal hero discovers a pseudo super-power within himself. No can do, fatal. Cover: Hester $2.95

ARCHIE COMICS

<> **Archie 405** $1.25
<> **Archie Andrews W.A.Y. Digest 83** $1.50
<> **Archie's Double Digest 62** $2.50
<> **Betty & Veronica Digest 58** $1.50
<> **Jughead 39** $1.25
<> **Jughead Digest 78** $1.50
<> **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Adventures 37** (Clarrain & Allan) $1.25
<> **Veronica's Passport Digest 1** (Fleming & Webb, Parent + Eisman) $1.50

CALIBER PRESS

<> **The Art of Durer** (Tome) Reproduction of work by the seminal medieval artist, Albrecht Durer. b&w $3.50

<> **Bound and Gagged 2** (Iconografix; Aushenker) Collection of short stories "for people who hate comics". Mature readers. b&w $2.50

<> **Caliber Presents: Hybrid** (Bugatto) Collection of short stories, including an adaptation of Franz Kafka's *Mount Sinai.* b&w $2.50

<> **Cartoon Girl 1** (Iconografix; McAdams) Film-maker Heather McAdams makes an off-beat transition to comics culture. Featuring *Mid-Life Crisis* and *How to Draw a Scary Monster Comic Strip in 13 Easy Steps.* Mature readers. b&w $2.95

<> **Daimons 1** (of 6; Gauntlet; Ferguson) SF fantasy, in which four beings left on Earth by an omnipotent "Federation" awake after millions of years waiting for their controllers - who seem to have forgotten about them - to contact them. b&w $2.95

<> **Deadworld: To Kill a King 1** (of 3; Garrett & McCain) Continuation of the *Dead-Killer* story in **Deadworld** 26 and the *Synergy* serial. Available in regular and limited (ie. with additional material) editions. Black & white $2.95/$5.95

<> **Femina: Dream Girls** (Laurene Haines) Erotic collection. Adult, N. b&w $2.95

<> **Fire 1** (of 4; Gauntlet; Bendis) Rights-of-passage story of a young agent's initiation into the world of US intelligence-gathering. Based on events during the Reagan administration. b&w $2.50

<> **Frostbiter: Wrath of the Wendingo 1** (adaptation: Chaney & Eaton) Rescheduled: Film adaptation (*Wendingo*), with additional behind-the-scenes information about the production itself. b&w 48pg $3.50

<> **Godcrasher 1** (Gauntlet; Yates) GOD - a brainwashing programme set up by a government agency to eradicate criminal's memories - is an unqualified success. Until Ian Epoch starts to remember. b&w $2.50

<> **Kilroy is Here 1** (Pruett & Ruth) Reporter Dan Bolin's investigation into a girl's murder leads him to the discovery of Kilroy, the personification of Death. Cover: Bolland. Mature readers. b&w $2.95

<> **King Arthur** (Tome; Pyle) Reproduction of the classic illustrations by Howard Pyle for *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.* b&w $3.50

<> **Krey 2** (of 5; Gauntlet; Mann & Butler) Krey is faced with a momentous decision: to stay with the mutants who adopted him, or leave them to join human society. b&w $2.50

<> **Lowlife 4** (Iconografix) Harvey-Award nominated series focusing on the accident-prone Tommy. For mature readers; black & white $2.50

<> **Markham 2** (of 3; Gauntlet; Stamatidias) *Demons of Death.* Manga-style SF action adventure from Australian creator Stamatidias. $2.50

<> **Meatcakes 1** (Iconografix; Megan) Collection of small press creator Darcy Megan's stories, featuring *The Wicked, Wicked Feline, Fertilia, The Dancing Womb, The Woman, Pranks Alot* and *The Tragedy of Lulu Marroo.* Mature readers. b&w $2.50

<> **Mr Trianglehead 1** An animated pyramid forms the focus of an underground cult amongst the disinherited of an inner city area Mature readers. b&w $2.50

<> **Poets Prosper** (Tome; various) Illustrated collection of gothic poetry, with sources from Keats, Morris, Shelley, Poe, Tennyson and Wilde. In regular and limited (signed by artist Massengill) editions. b&w $3.50/$5.95

<> **Purgatory** (Tome) Further collection of nineteenth-century artist Gustav Dore's work, focusing on illustrations from second part of the **Divine Comedy** trilogy. b&w 48pg $3.50

<> **The Rafael Bible** (Tome; Rafael) Reproduction of revolutionary artist Rafael's Loggia biblical paintings. b&w 48pg $3.50

<> **Scan 1** (of 2; Iconografix; Howarth) SF clone-world fantasy. Mature readers; black & white $2.95

<> **Shadowtown 2** (Iconografix, Anthony) Did, hero of the township in America's apartheid future, begins to question the motives of Shadowtown's leaders. Mature readers; black & white $2.50

<> **Sharks and Other Stories** (Askwith & Taylor) Collection of short stories some reprinted from **Caliber Presents**, **Taboo**, etc. b&w 48pg $3.50

<> **Skin-Graft 1** (Iconografix, Fischer & Sears + Nitsche) Collection of short stories including a diatribe by the creators on why they hate the current plethora of autobiographical comics. Mature readers. b&w $3.50

<> **Taras Bulba 1** (of 3; Tome; adaptation. Thayer & Nixey) Derived from the classic Russian historical novel. Includes background material on the legacy of the Cossacks. black & white $2.95

<> **Tekq 4** (of 4; Gauntlet; Carpenter and Bradford) Tekq is tipped over the edge into an uncontrollable rage when he discovers that his former partner is a traitor. But as he's about to destroy the moonlet HQ, a gravtech tells him that his daughter is still alive. b&w $2.95

<> **Very Vicky 1** (Iconografix; Mitchell & Christy) Recounting a teenager's joyless transition from life in New York to Sandy Shores, a town in the Sun Belt. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

<> **Visions: R. G. Taylor** (Taylor) Portfolio of comics and other artwork. b&w 96pg $4.95

COMICO

<> **Elementals Sex Special 6** (Dinehart & Herman, Akins + Butler) Adult, N, S. $2.95

<> **Falls the Gotham Rain 2** (of 2; O'Leary & Waskey) Duotone reprint of previously published graphic novel. $2.50

<> **Ratman 1** (of 4, Herman & Willingham) Mini-series following up on the **Elementals** story-line: Ratman comes to the Elemental's rescue as they go on trial for the murder of the Philadelphian vampires. $2.50

CONTINUITY

<> **Armor 17** (Stone & Veluto + Nebres) *Betrayal, Part 3.* Silver Streak strives to gain the Crystal - the key to his brother Armor's return. But the intractable Sacraman, Armor's tutor, will kill Silver Streak rather than let him have it. $2.50

<> **Bucky O'Hare vol 2 #3** (Stone & Corben + J. Adams) Rescheduled. $2.50

<> **Crazyman 6** (Stone & Barry) Moves onto monthly schedule. Crazyman battles with a multitude of demons. $2.50

<> **CyberRad vol 2 #5** (Adams, Stone & Bennett) As CyberRad continues to suffer the taxing and potentially fatal testing exacted by Reaver and Truncheon, the question of his brother's disappearance suddenly assumes a much greater significance. $2.50

<> **Earth 4 #2** (Stone & McDaniels + Laferty) Earth 4 are still riven by internecine war, and it now begins to look doubtful whether the planet itself will survive Urth's earth-shattering anger. $2.50

<> **Hybrids 2** (Stone & Buckler + Klasic) Hybrids enter into a slugfest with *other* hybrids, produced in the same stable as themselves $2.50

<> **Megalith 13** (Shooter & Pollard + Tanghal) With Valiant's Jim Shooter (*surely that should be Shooter's Valiant? - ed.*) as guest creator overseeing Ms Mystic and Megalith fighting a race of subterranean gods... and Megalith falling in love. $2.50

<> **Ms Mystic vol 2 #3** (Stone & Turner) Ms Mystic gets a chance for some wholesome revenge on the man who broke her heart. But that's only if she can plough her way through the dinosaurs. $2.50

DARK HORSE

<> **Aliens: Earth War** (Verheiden & Kirby) Collecting the **Aliens: Earth War** 1-4 mini-series, with introduction by Verheiden mapping out the relationship between Dark Horse's various Aliens productions. Cover: Bolton. 120pg $13.95

<> **Aliens: Tribes Limited Edition** (hbk; Bissette & Dorman) Tale of treachery and tragedy, in which a team of hot exterminators are sent to an orbiting Earth station, currently occupied by an Alien. 1,000 copies, signed. 72pg $75.00

<> **The American: Lost in America 2** (of 4; Verheiden & Marrinan + Garvey) The American's girlfriend enlists the help of reporter Dennis Hough to search for the kidnapped hero. Meanwhile, local rednecks and aspiring vigilantes decide to take out a bunch of baddies with chimp suits who are running amok in a hicksville town. 32pg $2.50

<> **Caravan Kidd 2** (Manabe) Miss Tomiko is a hunted woman - with a ransom of six million credits on her head and pursued by the forces of the Helgebard Empire. b&w 32pg $2.50

<> **Cheval Noir 33** Featuring: *The Man From the Ciguri* (Moebius); *Sabotage, Chapter 2* (Torres); *In Search of Peter Pan, Chapter 3* (Cosey); *The Terrible Chain Gang* (Geary); *Angriest Dog in the World* (Lynch). Cover: Apthorp. Mature readers. b&w 32pg $2.95

<> **Classic Star Wars 1** (Goodwin &

Williamson) Collection of newly coloured and reformatted *Star Wars* newsstrips from the early 1980s. Cover: Williamson. 32pg $2.50

<> **Critical Error** (Byrne) Reprint of a SF story originally commissioned by SQ Productions. Re-coloured. Cover. Byrne. Mature readers. 32pg $2.50

<> **Dark Horse Comics 1** New anthology title, featuring: *Predator* (Edgington & Leonardi); *Robocop* (Arcudi & Leon); *Renegade* (Claremont & Giarrano); *Time Cop* (Verheiden & Lesey + Warner). Cover: Dorman. 32pgs; colour $2.50

<> **Dark Horse Presents 1** (reprint) Published to coincide with the celebration of Dark Horse's fifth anniversary. b&w 32pg $2.25

<> **Dark Horse Presents 65** Featuring: *Accidental Death* (Brubaker & Shanower); *Doctor Giggles, Part 2* (of 3; Coto & Burroughs); *Interact-O-Rama* (Hedden & McWeeney) - an interactive short with a prize offered for the best reader's story. Cover: Shanower. Mature readers. b&w 32pg $2.25

<> **Deadface: Earth, Water, Air & Fire 2** (of 4; Campbell) Bacchus and Simpson are captured by the local Mafia boss's troops in Sicily. Fortunately for Bacchus, the godfather's desires coincide neatly with his own - to snatch the Eye of Fate from the Kabeirol. Cover: Campbell. Mature readers. b&w 32pgs $2.50

<> **Evil Dead: Army of Darkness 2** (of 3, adaptation: Raimi & Bolton) Continued story derived from the film of the same name sees Ashe confronting his most formidable enemy yet in his seemingly endless mission to save the living from the (evil) dead Cover: Bolton 32pg $2.50

<> **Flaming Carrot 28** (Burden) Could this be the new, '90s-style Carrot? He oversees the domestic welfare of Palookaville, in a "Hello birds, hello sky, hello trees" interlude (as **Down With Skool's** Fotherington-Thomas would have it) in the vitamin A hero's life 32pgs b&w $2.25

<> **Godzilla Colour Special 1** (Stradley & A. Adams) First of a series based on the revival of the giant ape. When faced with the imminent threat of Godzilla arriving on their remote island, the inhabitants of Kurukai determine that their only option is to wake the demon resident in an ancient stone statue... Cover: Art Adams. 40pg $3.50

<> **Grendel: War Child 1** (of 10; Wagner & McEown + Mireault) *Devil in the Desert.* First appearance of Grendel for 10 years, following the **Grendel** 40 story-line. The ten-year-old heir to the Grendel-Khan throne is kidnapped from the asylum in which he was hidden by his step-mother to prevent him from taking his crown. But the kidnapper is Grendel, and he's got other, more important motives than a possible ransom payment for Jupiter Niklos Assante. Cover: Bisely. Mature readers.$2.50

<> **Intron Depot** Portfolio of work by Japanese artist Shirow (**Appleseed**, **Dominion**, etc.). Bi-lingual text. 148pg$39.95

<> **James Bond 007: Serpent's Tooth 2** (of 3; prestige format; Moench & Gulacy) Mature readers. 48pg $4.95

<> **Nexus the Liberator 1** (of 4; Petrucha & Calimee + Nyberg) First of a four-part mini-series following last month's origin issue. Nexus has his hands more than full, coping with protecting Thune refugees *and* dealing with the few-votes-short-of-a-democracy planet Uyl, dominated by a fervently religious tyrant bent on genocide... 32pg $2.50

<> **Nina's All-Time Greatest Classic Comics 1** (Nina Paley) Autobiographical collection of short stories by the creator of **Dark Horse Presents'** *Kute Kitty Kartoon.* Includes *A Popular Gal, Underground Comix* and *Big Editor Boss-Man.* Mature readers. b&w $2.25

<> **Prairie Moon and Other Stories** (Geary) Collection of stories by cartoonist Geary. Part reprint, using some material previously published in **Dark Horse Presents** and **Cheval Noir** with 16 pages of new strips. b&w 48pg $2.25

<> **Predator: Big Game** (tpbk; Arcudi & Dorkin + Gil) Collecting the mini-series of the same name. Cover: Warner. 112pg $13.95

<> **Rio at Bay 2** (Wildey) Rio rides shotgun (how many legs does a shotgun *have?*) on a stage to the Barbary Coast, where he stumbles on a most exceptional poker game... 32pg clr $2.95

<> **Robocop v Terminator 4** (of 4; Miller & Simonson) Robocop changes tactics, using Terminator technology to travel back to the time before the computer Skynet became conscious. Once there, he can put his plan into operation - to destroy Skynet - and himself in one fell swoop. Cover: Walt Simonson. 32pg $2.50

<> **Star Wars: Dark Empire 5** (Veitch & Kennedy) The Emperor's power growns apace, with Leia and the Jedi Holocron captured, and Luke Skywalker in thrall to the Dark Side. Cover: Dorman. 32pg $2.95

<> **The Thing: Climate of Fear 2** (of 3; Arcudi & Somerville + R. Jones) The Thing resurfaces on a US Argentine base. Cover: Higgins. 32pg $2.50

<> **The Venus Wars II #3** (Yasukiko) Cadet Random uncovers a conspiracy in the colonial settlement on Venus and, in a story reminiscent of Spielberg's *Duel* finds himself pursued by a truck... Cover: Stelfreeze and Story. b&w 32pg $2.25

<> **Workingman's Deadline USA 5** US edition of the British anthology. Mature readers. Magazine format. b&w 48pg $3.95

<> **The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles 7** (Barry & Purcell + Akin) Young Jones volunteers for service in the Belgian army, bound for the Congo; by far the most terrifying experience he's yet had. 32pg $2.50

DC COMICS

SHIPPING AUGUST 4th

<> **Detective Comics 650** (Dixon & Nolan + Mitchell) Rescheduled. Robin tries to intervene in an assassination planned for 50 years. Meanwhile, Harold and Ace are nosing around in the Batcave and find something unexpected... (RO) $1.25

SHIPPING AUGUST 11th

<> **Batman: Night Cries** (hdbk; Goodwin & Hampton) A clue to the reasons for the traditionally vulnerable psyche of Commissioner Gordon is offered here, when, during an investigation into the killing of child abusers in Gotham, it is revealed that Gordon was abused himself as a child. (RO) 96pgs painted colour $24.95

<> **Batman: Shadow of the Bat 5** (A. Grant & Breyfogle) One-shot, in which Batman faces a moral conundrum: to uphold the law or support natural justice. Black Spider, a reformed heroin addict, pleads for the Dark Knight's help to break his pregnant and still addicted girlfriend's habit... $1.50

<> **Batman: Sword of Azrael 1** (of 4; O'Neil & Quesada + Nowlan) Batman becomes embroiled in a 800-year-old case of a missing person: when Azrael, agent of the covert Crusader militia, the Order of Saint Dumas appears suddenly in the middle of a Gotham City parade. Batman, intrigued by Azrael's story of the disappearance of his father,

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travels with him to central Europe to unpick the history leading up to the elder Azrael's death. Cover: Quesada and Nowlan. $1.75

<> **The Black Hood 10** (Wheatley & Sale + Burchett) *The Slime of Your Life, Part 1* (of 2) Black Hood races against time to prevent the release of a new drug onto the black market. (RO) $1.25

<> **Deathstroke, the Terminator 15** (Wolfman & Nichols + Blyberg) *Total Chaos, Part 4* (of 9). Deathstroke's only hope of a cure lies in a reunion with an old girlfriend, Princess Sweet Lili. Continues in **The New Titans** 91. Cover Zeck. (RO) $1.75

<> **Flash 69** (Waid & LaRoque + Marzan Jr) *Gorilla Warfare, Part 2* (of 4). Flash confronts Hector Hammond in Keystone City and then departs mysteriously to Africa... Continues in **Green Lantern** 31. (RO) $1.25

<> **Green Lantern: Mosaic 5** (G. Jones & Hamner + Panosian) John Stewart undertakes a dangerous psychic battle with Hal Jordan when the latter goes to Oa in order to resolve his problems with Rose. (RO) $1.25

<> **Green Lantern 30** (G. Jones & Bright + Tanghal) *Gorilla Warfare, Part 2* (of 4). Hal Jordan teams up with Detective Chimp and Rex the Wonder Boy to deal with the rebellion provoked by Grodd's activities. Continues in **Flash** 69. (RO) $1.25

<> **Hawkworld 27** (Ostrander & Duursema + Bryant) *Flight's End, Part 1* (of 6). Sub-Ku Klux Klan vigilante White Dragon embarks on a war on crime - which turns a blind eye to white criminals The Hawks retaliate with a righteous and vengeful investigation into the origin of the racist aggressor, and bring a halt to the campaign of victimisation. $1.75

<> **Hellblazer: Original Sins** (tpbk; Delano & Ridgway, Ewins + Alcala, J. McCarthy) Collecting **Hellblazer** 1-9. Cover: Dave McKean. (RO) 256pg $19.95

<> **Justice League Europe Annual 3** (G. Jones & Jacobs, Hamilton + Tanghal) *The Darkness Within.* Green Lantern, Flash and Power Girl are *all* eclipsed, and conspire to undermine the JLE. (RO) 64pg $2.50

<> **Peter Cannon: Thunderbolt 2** (M. Collins & Marzan Jr) Second part of a new series featuring the former Charlton Comics character. This issue, Thunderbolt's origin is partially revealed as Cannon gets involved in the machinations of Cairo DeFrey's terrorist organisation. $1.25

<> **Shade, the Changing Man 28** (Milligan & Doran + Pennington) *Shade, the Changing Woman, Part 2.* Shade's experience of life from a female perspective continues as he discovers that the woman who used to own the body he's living in had a sister, who's involved in a mysterious sequence of events. Cover: McCarthy. Mature readers. (RO)$1.75

<> **Star Trek 37** (Weinstein & Purcell + Garzon) *The Tabukan Syndrome, Part 3* (of 6). Sulu's in the firing line, and the Romulan project goes awry. But there's been a coup d'etat on Epsilon Kitaj, and McCoy's medical skills are required by the new rulers. $1.75

<> **Superman: The Man of Steel 16** (L. Simonson & Bogdanove + Janke) *Crisis at Hand, Part 1* (of 2). Superman may be a super-man, but is he a super-New Man? He finds himself at a loss when he's unable to stop a woman being beaten by her spouse in his apartment block. Continues in **Superman** 72. (RO) $1.25

<> **The Web 14** (Kupperberg & Horne + Pepoy) *Frenzy, Part 2* (of 2). Death is the possible price the Web agents might have to pay for dealing with Frenzy and crew's campaign to spread the insanity virus world-wide. (RO) $1.25

<> **Wonder Woman Annual 3** (Messner-Loebs & Cullins + Campanella) *The Darkness Within.* Asquith Randolph's sustained attempt to eclipse Diana continues, as a "retired" super-hero and a terrorist form a trap which endangers her life; Randolph's hope is that she will be provoked into a rage which will make her susceptible to eclipse. (RO) $2.50

<> **Wonder Woman 67** (Messner-Loebs & Cullins + Campanella) *Exodus into Space, Part 2* (of 5). Princess Diana's rescue does not make her situation any more secure... Cover: Bolland. $1.25

SHIPPING AUGUST 18th

<> **Adventures of Superman Annual 4** (Fleming & McLeod) *The Darkness Within* (penultimate episode). Lobo and Guy Gardner guest-star as two of the very few characters who *aren't* eclipsed in Randolph's bid for universal control. They gather the remaining incorrupt heroes together for a meeting to decide who it is that will perform the suicide mission to the Sun for the raw light-energy necessary to release Superman from Eclipso's thraldom. (RO) 64pg $2.50

<> **Aquaman 11** (McLaughlin & Hooper + Dvorak) Featuring a giant dinosaur (they seem to be undergoing a revival at the moment) which threatens to destroy New York City - that is, unless Aquaman gets to it first. $1.25

<> **Batman Annual 16** (Grant & Wagner + Giarrano) *The Darkness Within.* Batman is forced into eclipse when the Joker - sprung from Arkham by Scarface - gets his hands on a black diamond. (RO) 64pg $2.50

<> **Batman 485** (Moench & Grindberg) *The Return of the Black Mask, Part 2* (of 2). Black Mask gets the upper hand when Batman neatly falls into his pit while trying to rescue Lucius Fox. Cover: Golden. (RO) $1.25

<> **The Demon 28** (McDuffie & Semeiks + B. Smith) *Political Asylum, Part 3* (of 4). Superman has finally noticed that the Demon's electioneering is somewhat unorthodox - but Etrigan's too busy to notice anyway - he's out for blood after being targeted by a foolhardy assassin. (RO) $1.50

<> **Detective Comics 651** (Dixon & Nolan + Hanna) *A Bullet for Bullock.* Unfortunately titled tale in which Batman is called upon - with the greatest reluctance - to protect Harvey Bullock from his gathering enemies. Cover: K. Jones. (RO) $1.25

<> **The Hacker Files 3** (Shiner & Sutton + Buckingham) Rescheduled. *Soft War, Part 3* (of 4). Complications develop as Hacker begins to get into the NORAD computer files. But the Speed Metal crew are getting close to the perp who set up the virus in the first place... (RO) $1.95

<> **Hammerlocke 2** (of 9; Joyner & Sprouse + Wilson) While her father, Hammerlocke, is meeting the guardians of the Starbridge, Amanda confronts the author of a plot against the bridge, Tharn the Iron Spider. (RO) $1.75

<> **The Heckler 2** (Giffen & T. & M. Bierbaum, Giffen & M. Jones III) Mysterious man with a mysterious motive: Generic Man wants to change everything in Delta City into its generic counterpart. Explain it we cannot, but it's the Heckler's task to stop him doing it, whatever it is... (RO) $1.25

<> **Hellblazer 58** (Ennis & Dillon) *Mortal Clay, Part 2* (of 2). Constantine and Chaos are holed up in the research centre beseiged by the souls of the corpses used for experimental purposes within. Mature readers. (RO) $1.75

<> **The Jaguar 14** (Messner-Loebs & Wojtkiewicz) *A Frightmare in Rio.* Last issue of the series. Maria faces a tragic loss when her father is shot as a result of the treacherous

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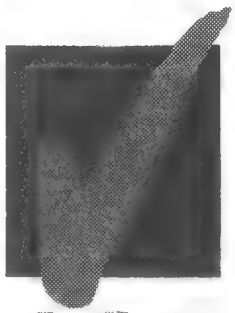

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behaviour of one of her best friends. $1.25

<> **Justice League America 67** (Jurgens & Burchett) The League steam off to investigate an alien spaceship... Meanwhile, more of the history of Bloodwynd is uncovered, and Atom finally arrives at a decision. (RO) $1.25

<> **Legion of Super-Heroes 34** (Giffen & T. & M. Bierbaum, Pearson + Story) *The Terra Mosaic.* Former Sun Boy Dirk Morgna makes a re-appearance during the Legion SUBS and the young Legionnaires' increasingly desperate war with the Dominator. RO $1.75

<> **New Titans 91** (Wolfman & Grummett + Vey) *Total Chaos, Part 5* (of 9) Lord Chaos's destruction of Troia is the summons for the return of Phantasm to the Titans' team. Continues in **Team Titans** 2. (RO) $1.75

<> **Sandman 42** (Gaiman & Thompson + Locke) *Brief Lives, Part 2.* During Dreamless' continuing search for her brother Destruction, she encounters Morpheus, still grief-stricken over the loss of his lover. Cover: McKean. Mature readers. (RO) $1.50

<> **Star Trek: The Modala Imperative** (tpbk; Friedman & David + Marcos) Collects the mini-series cross-over between **Star Trek** and **Star Trek: The Next Generation**, with introduction by Walter ("Chekov") Koenig. 208pg $19.95

<> **Superman 72** (Jurgens & Vancanta) *Crisis at Hand, Part 2* (of 2). Superman becomes desperate over his inability to help the battered wife in his apartment block. (RO) $1.25

SHIPPING AUGUST 25th

<> **Adventures of Superman 495** (Ordway & Grummett + Hazelwood) After the crisis of confidence explored in **Superman** 72, Superman begins to have doubts about whether he should mix with ordinary joes, and seeks solace with "his own kind" in Supertown. (RO) $1.25

<> **Animal Man 52** (Delano & Pugh) Delano's dark story-line continues with Animal Man's attempt to reclaim his body foiled by it having being virtually destroyed by autopsy. Cliff, his son, sinks further into degradation and betrayal as he continues to mutilate animals. Cover: Bolland. Mature readers. (RO) $1.75

<> **Arion, The Immortal 4** (of 6; Kupperberg & Wilson) Garn Daanuth has his brother Arion to deal with before he can pursue his plan to launch a world war. (RO) $1.50

<> **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 38** (A. Grant & K. O'Neill) *The Legend of the Dark Mite.* That 1960s pesky imp, Bat-Mite, appears to return for a 1990s-style single issue confrontation with the Dark Knight in his true demonic form. (RO) $1.75

<> **The Black Condor 5** (Augustyn & Morales + Space) The Black Condor has a heavy agenda: a confrontation with Mindforce and then with vengeful drug lords. (RO) $1.25

<> **Eclipso: The Darkness Within 2** (Giffen & Fleming, Sears, Pennington + Elliot) *The Darkness Within: Conclusion.* Eclipso gathers all his converts to his castle on the dark side of the Moon for a battle - to the death - with the remaining uneclipsed super-heroes. $2.50

<> **Green Lantern 31** (G. Jones & Bright + Tanghal) *Gorilla Warfare, Part 3* (of 4). Grodd and Hammond achieve their end - mutation of Green Lantern and Flash - through a radioactive meteor. Continues in **Flash** 70 (RO) $1.25

<> **Ironwolf: Fires of the Revolution** (hdbk; Chaykin & J. F. Moore, Mignola + Russell) Follows the story-line from the **Ironwolf** mini-series. Ironwolf, far from being dead, finds himself waking from a 10-year coma. With the revolution over, the feudal lords in power, and deprived of his lover *and* ship, Ironwolf is left with only one choice: to seek revenge... Mature readers. (RO) 104pg $29.95

<> **Legend of the Shield 16** (Meihm & Blaustein + Miehm) Final issue. The first Shield helps Joe Higgins to free an American soldier kidnapped by rebellious Soviet agents. (RO) $1.25

<> **L.E.G.I.O.N. '92 46** (Kitson) Green Lantern and Lobo deal with 24 million homeless aliens, and Vril Dox delivers an alien from Captain Comet. Cover: Brereton. (RO) $1.50

<> **Lobo: Infanticide 1** (of 4; A. Grant & K. Giffen) Lobo's disinherited bastards - a hundred of them - unite under daughter Su's command to bring Lobo to account. They out-manoeuvre him by sicking him to the military authorities, and he ends up being drafted into the army... Mature readers. (RO) $1.50

<> **Star Trek: The Next Generation 39** (Friedman & Krause + Marcos) *Divergence, Part 1* (of 6). Investigating what appears to be a moon on the fringes of Federation Space, an Enterprise away team finds itself crossing swords with the enigmatic Sztazzan. $1.75

<> **Star Trek 38** (Weinstein & Purcell + Starr) *The Tabukan Syndrome, Part 4* (of 6). Sulu and Kirk realise just how dangerous the Tabukan weapons are. Meanwhile McCoy and Wilson discover the dangers of their profession when it interfaces with martial law. (RO) $1.75

<> **Swamp Thing 124** (Collins & Eaton + Baker) Swamp Thing defends the ancient rights of an Aztec tribe in Central America against the overweening greed of a corporation... Cover: Higgins. Mature readers. (RO) $1.75

<> **Team Titans 2** (Wolfman & Maguire + Blyberg) *Total Chaos, Part 6* (of 9). Battalion - "a one-man armoured division" sneeks through a newly discovered time portal to join Lord Chaos' forces. And the Team Titans' situation isn't helped by Mirage's defection to the New Titans... Continues in **Deathstroke, the Terminator** 16. (RO) $1.75

SHIPPING SEPTEMBER 1st

<> **The Comet 16** (Waid & West + Albrecht) Rob confronts the aliens responsible for his parents' deaths. (RO) $1.25

<> **The Crusaders 6** (Wojkiewicz + Lowe) The Crusaders deal single-handedly with the invasion of the Impact Universe's cyborgs. (RO) $1.00

<> **The Darkstars 1** (Friedman & Stroman + Hanna) Introduction of new characters to the DC Universe; a group of galactic warriors who, led by Agent Ferrin Colos, defend Earth from the sales promotion activities of alien - yes, you guessed it! - drug-lords. $1.75

<> **Detective Comics 652** (Dixon & Nolan + Hanna) In an introductory story to the forthcoming **Robin III** mini-series, the Huntress reappears and joins Batman to deal with villains using diplomatic immunity to protect themselves against arrest. (RO) $1.25

<> **Doom Patrol 60** (Morrison & Case + Woch) Poor Crazy Jane joins battle with the Candlemaker in an attempt to save Danny the Street. Cover: Bisley. Mature readers. $1.50

<> **The Fly 15** (Strazewski & Parobeck + Fricke) Domino has achieved total control over Crowne Pointe's stadium - with team, crowd and the Fly inside it... (RO) $1.25

<> **Green Arrow 67** (Grell & Springer + Marcos) Green Arrow investigates the systematic killing of the members of a rock band Cover: Grell. (RO) $1.50

<> **Justice League Europe 43** (G. Jones & Randall + Elliot) The Justice League members are spooked by their new HQ in an English castle. Meanwhile... tragedy strikes when Amos Fortune is trapped in the Channel tunnel when it collapses... (RO) $1.25

<> **Superman Special 1** (W. Simonson) Rescheduled. Lex Luthor's machinations in attempting to synthesise Kryptonite are badly calculated - and all the genuine residues of the ore on Earth are destroyed in the process. But at the same time a simulation of Superman is created (from sand!), and the creature begins to leach Superman's powers... 64pg $3.50

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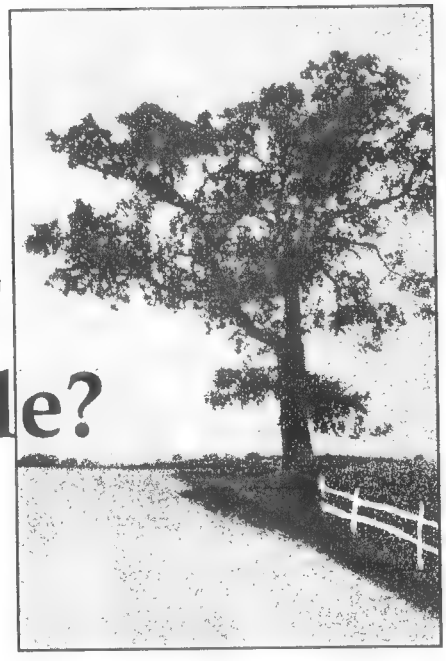

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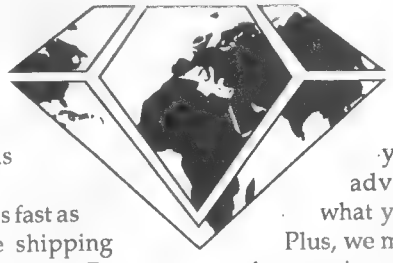

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SHIPPING SEPTEMBER 8th

<> **Action Comics 682** (Stern & Abell + Austin) Killgrave has the use of Hi-Tech, a robot with hidden powers, when he seeks Superman out for a revenge-fest. (RO) $1.25

<> **Batman: Bride of the Demon** (pbk; Barr & Grindberg) Sequel to **Batman: Son of the Demon** sees Batman once more martialling his powers to deal with Ra's al Ghul, still bent on saving the Earth by committing genocide. But Batman never dreamt that such a confrontation would lead to him fighting with his beloved Talia.... 96pg $12.95

<> **Guy Gardner 1** (G. Jones & Staton + Beatty) In this first issue of the new series, Gardner's attempt to clean up New York City is foiled by the arrival of Kilowog, the Guardian's agent sent to take back Guy's power ring. (RO) $1.25

<> **Justice Society of America 3** (Strazewski & Parobeck + Machlan) Dr. Mid-Nite is reunited with the JSA, and the newly strengthened team uncover the source of the problems it's had of late... (RO) $1.25

<> **Martian Manhunter: American Secrets 2** (of 3; G. Jones & Barreto) The Martian finds himself running scared - with a rockabilly star and a quiz-show host - across a paranoia-ridden, early Sixties America. 48pg $4.95

<> **Sgt. Rock Special 1** (anthology; Kanigher, Kubert, P. C. Russell, Pratt, Golden, Truman, Snyder, Wagner) Collection of previously unpublished stories featuring Sergeant Rock. (RO) 64pg $2.95

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<> **Yummy Fur 29** (Chester Brown) Penultimate issue in Brown's autobiographical series. Mature readers. b&w 24pg $2.50

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<> **Weird Fantasy 1** (Feldstein, Harrison & Wood, Kamen, Kurtzman) Reprints original 1st issue, May 1950. $1.50

<> **Two-Fisted Tales 1** (Kurtzman, Felstein, Wood, Craig) Reprints original 1st issue, November 1950 $1.50

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<> **Blood is the Harvest 2** (FX imprint; McElroy & Luque + Yap) While Milo is entrapped by "corporate bloodsuckers" on a Lear jet, Nikita confronts M'Raud, the vampire agent for Lamia International, and comes off the worst... b&w 32pg $2.50

<> **Clive Barker's Dread** (adaptation: Burke & Brereton) Derived from Barker's book, **Dread** is the story of Quaid, a philosophy student who, pre-occupied with his *own* fears, sets up a series of experiments to study others' tolerance to fear. But as Quaid's fears become obsessions, he's increasingly distracted by an image of an axe-wielding clown... Available in hardback and paperback editions. Mature readers. 64pg $8.95/$24.95

<> **Parts Unknown 2** (FX imprint; B. Smith & Gorby + Clark) Sleezmond and Tragg, the aliens detailed to steal women from Earth, run into a problem when the latter *falls in love*... Meanwhile Cops Spurr and Lucci are still trying to convince people that the human race is actually being threatened by two aliens who... (etc, etc.) b&w 32pg $2.50

<> **The Retaliator 2** (FX imprint; V. Jones & Simonton + Yap) Detective Levitz and reporter Schiller are hot on the Retaliator's trail, but he's oblivious as his pursuit of a child-abuser draws to a close. b&w 32pg $2.50

<> **Miracleman 26** (FX imprint; Gaiman & Buckingham) *Book Five: The Silver Age, Part 4.* Dicky Dauntless, the young Miracleman, struggles to come to terms with the revelations of his past, future, death and rebirth. Cover: Windsor-Smith. $2.50

<> **The Spider: Reign of the Vampire King 3** (of 3; FX imprint; Truman & Alcatena) Concluding part, in which the Spider confronts the Vampire Master and crew in the latter's home territory - an abandoned amusement park. Prestige format. 48pg $4.95

ETERNITY

<> **Animag 2** (various) Collected manga strips. Magazine format. $5.00

<> **Captain Harlock: Fall of the Empire 2** (of 4; Gibson & Elred) Tadashi, saved himself by Xola, nurses Illuminadas back to health aboard his ship. Backing strip features the second part of *Robotech: Firewalkers*. b&w, 32pgs. $2.50

<> **Ninja High School 3** (of 5; Dunn) Reprints - in colour - **Ninja High School** 3. Cover: Dunn. $1.95

<> **Robotech: Invid War 4** (of 12; Spangler & Eldred) Wolff is put in the invidious position of making a choice between the survival of his family and his duty as a leader of the Earth's resistance forces. b&w $2.50

<> **Robotech II: The Sentinels Book 2 #5** (Mason & Ulm + Waltrip) The Sentinels use the subterfuge of being captives of an Invid Regent organisation to liberate the people of Karbarra. b&w $2.50

FANTACO

<> **Alien Contamination 2** (of 2; joint production: Profundo Rosso/ Fantaco; Cozzi & Muratori) Adapted (by the director) from the Italian SF film of the same title. b&w $2.95

<> **Night of the Living Dead 4** (hbk; of 4; adaptation: Skulan & Stanway + Kastro) Signed, limited edition. Mature readers, V. b&w 48pg $31.00

<> **Night's Children: Double Endemnity** (Snow-Lang) Second printing of the limited edition, flip-book format. b&w 48pg $7.95

<> **Shriek Special 3: Up-Town Zombies** (Niles & Whiting) New (non-continuous) series. This issue: Private Investigator Cartwright uncovers an horrific cabal of the undead behind a new up-town food chain. b&w $3.50

FANTAGRAPHICS

<> **Butt Biscuit 3** Continued story of the victimisation of Danny the Mongoloid. Mature readers. b&w $2.25

<> **Colliers 2** (anthology) Collection of satirical stories and social comment. Mature readers. b&w $2.75

<> **Comics Journal 152** Styled as a "special mainstream comics issue", featuring an in-depth interview with Todd McFarlane taking on editor Gary Groth. Also Chris Claremont on Marvel. Plus mainstream vs alternative, opinions from Alan Moore, Dave McKean, Ty Templeton, William Messner-Loebs, Evan Dorkin and David Mazzuchelli. Darcy Sullivan deconstructs Marvel Comics' public image and looks at the "real" history of the West's biggest comics publisher. Also includes the regular columns, letters, etc. Magazine format. b&w 120pg $4.95

<> **Completely Bad Boys 1** (J. R. Williams) "Complete" collection of previously published and new stories featuring William's children's TV soundalike characters, Billy and Bobbie. Mature readers. b&w 24pg $2.50

<> **Cud 1** (LaBan) Featuring the continued adventures (from **Unsupervised Existence**) of Bob, the unfortunate performance artist in *You Can't Spank Your Monkey if he's on Your Back, Muktuk, Wolf'sBreath, Hard-Boiled Shaman*, puzzle pages and a bogus autobiographical strip. Mature readers. b&w 24pg $2.95

<> **Eightball 8** (Clowes) Features more from *Like a Velvet Glove Cast in Iron, My Suicide* and *Give it Up!*, with two short stories starring Dan Pussey. Mature readers, b&w; 24 pages $2.95

<> **Fantagraphics Legends 3: Bruce Lee** (Fox Comics production; Eddy) Unauthorised biography of the martial arts hero. b&w 24pgs $2.50

<> **Hate 10** (Bagge) Buddy hires an old girlfriend and ends up doing time for it... Mature readers. b&w $2.25

<> **Junkwaffel vol 1** (Bode) Collected SF works by Vaughn Bode, including *Sunspot, Machines* and *Zooks*. Mature readers. pc. 80pg $12.95

<> **Kid Anarchy 3** Sherman's place at Michigan State University threatens the unity of the group, but Chuck comes up with a solution. Mature readers. b&w 32pg $2.50

<> **Laundryland 4** (of 4; Forg & Jean) Final issue of the series sees Natalie in gaol and in distress... Mature readers. b&w $2.50

<> **Ten Years of Love & Rocket** (Hernandez Brothers) Collected work, some previously unpublished. Mature readers; b&w $1.00

<> **Naughty Bits 6** (Gregory) Bitchy Bitch revisits the Sixties. Mature readers. b&w 24pg $2.25

<> **Pictopia 3** (anthology) New series, which this issue includes work by Ware, Allen, Collier and Tardi. Mature readers. pc. 72pg $7.95

<> **Real Girl 4** (anthology) Includes work by Roxxie, Kuper and Cheela Smith. Adult, N, S. b&w 40pg $2.95

<> **Real Stuff 9** (Eichhorn) Eichhorn's lead strip is backed by *Ouch!* and additional work by Dangle and Friedrich. Mature readers. b&w 24pg $2.25

<> **Snake Eyes 1** (graphic novel; anthology) 2nd printing. Mature readers. b&w 80pg$8.95

<> **Usagi Yojimbo 36** (Sakai) *Gen, Part 3.* Revelations about Gen's past, and a winner-takes-all battle. Backing strip *Lionheart* by Stazer. Cover: Sakai. b&w 32pg $2.25

HARVEY

<> **Casper the Friendly Ghost 11** $1.25

<> **Richie Rich 10** $1.25

<> **Richie Rich Money World Digest 5** 1.75

IMAGE COMICS

<> **Brigade 2** (of 4; Liefeld, Mychales & Kanalz + Mychaels, P. Scott) Brigade confronts his bete noir, Genocide, in a story styled as "the first outer space adventure for our heroes". $1.95

<> **Cyberforce 1** (M. & E. Silvestri) New series, based on the international search for a 10-year-old mutant child who holds the key to the future... Cyberforce race a doppelganger team of super-powered, cybernetically-enhanced agents of the CyberData Corporation in a traditional good-versus-evil story-line. $1.95

<> **Extreme: The Artwork of Rob Liefeld** (Rescheduled) Selection of work by Liefeld, including preparatory work for **Youngblood**. cover: Liefeld. pc 72pg $4.95

<> **The Savage Dragon 3** (of 3; Larsen) Concluding issue sees **Youngblood**'s Bedrock guest-starring in a slugfest with The Savage Dragon. $1.95

<> **Spawn 4** (McFarlane) Spawn discovers the prejudice homeless people are subjected to while hiding out amongst them, on the run from the police and street gangs. $1.95

<> **Shadowhawk 1** (of 4; Valentino) *A Nightmare Walking.* First of a new series, in which Shadowhawk's vigilante activities catch up with him in the form of the New York Police Department. Meanwhile, pyromaniac Arsón does underground queen Vendetta's work for her, setting a fire that threatens the whole of Manhattan. $1.95

<> **Youngblood 0** (Liefeld and Kanalz) Special retrospective issue featuring the answers to a few questions about **Youngblood 1**. Not the questions you'd all like to have answered, but the origin of the team instead, and Shaft's first day as a Blood. Includes two (by now obligatory) trading cards, and a redeemable coupon for the otherwise unobtainable **Image Comics #0**. $1.95

<> **Youngblood 3 (2B)** (Liefeld and Kanalz) As a result of the restructuring of the series, **Youngblood 2** has been expanded to two parts. The story billed in **Youngblood** 3 now appears in **Youngblood** 4. $2.50

<> **Youngblood 4** (Liefeld and Kanalz) Final issue in the series, containing the story-line originally billed for **Youngblood** 3. $2.50

<> **WildC.A.T.S. 2** (of 3; Lee, Choi & Williams) The WildC.A.T.S. are dispatched to terminate a Daemonite agent resident on Capitol Hill. The agent counters by alerting the Youngblood team to the possibility of an attack... $1.95

INNOVATION

<> **Avenue X 1** (adaptation: Black & Chang) Derived from a WBAI radio series (New York) of the same name, in which teenage girl, attacked by a vampire on the F train, retreats into alternative culture and plots revenge. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

<> **Dark Shadows 3** (Campiti & Rockwell + E. S. Smith) Collins and Hoffman are entrapped by Pastor Swann in Barrettstown, Victoria Winters' secret is out and Angelique launches her horrific project. Cover: E. S. Smith. Mature readers. b&w $2.50$2.50

<> **Forbidden Planet 4** (of 4; adaptation; Campiti & Gross) Final part of the MGN movie-derived story-line, in which Commander Adams and Altaira are pursued by Dr. Morbius' beast, and the origin of the Krell and their intrepid monsters is revealed. $2.50

<> **J. N. Williamson's Masques 2** (editor: Mort Castle; various) Collection of horror shorts adapted from stories by Paul Dale Anderson (*Better Than One*; Pimentel); Mort Castle (*If You Take My Hand, My Son*; Evans) and Stephen King (*Popsy*; Thompson). Includes additional text pieces. Cover: De Berardinis. Mature readers. $4.95

<> **Interview With the Vampire 6** (of 12; Wood & Moeller) *The Transylvanian Revelation.* Having offed Lestat, Claudia and Louis go on a roots-finding mission to central Europe, and discover the daddy of all vampires waiting there for them. Cover: Moeller. Mature readers. $2.50

<> **The Light Fantastic 4** (adaptation: Rockwell & Ross) Final issue of the story-line derived from Pratchett's **Discworld** series, in which Rincewind speaks the ominous and almost forgotten Spell of Creations... Cover: Ross. Mature readers. $2.50

<> **Lost in Space 2 - Special Edition** (Broderick, Mumy & Thompson) Reprint, with additional material, of **Lost in Space** 2. Cover: Thompson. $2.50

<> **Lost in Space 11** (Collins & Dutkiewicz) *The Roar of the Crowd.* Judy Robinson plans a show to celebrate her family's seventh year of being lost in space... Cover: Palmer. $2.50

<> **On a Pale Horse 3** (of 6; adaptation: Light & Gorby + Ballard) *The Incarnations of Immortality Book 1.* Derived from Piers Anthony first novel. Zane settles to his task - being the manifestation of Death - and to his increasing intimacy with Luna Kaftan. Mature readers. Prestige format. $4.95

<> **Quantum Leap 9** (adaptation: Magels & Price) *Up Against the Stonewall.* Continued series derived from the TV series of the same name. Sam Beckett leaps into the body of a female super-model who, in 1969, became involved in the Gay Rights Revolution in New York. Cover: C. Winston Taylor. $2.50

<> **Queen of the Damned 3** (Wood & Cariello) Rescheduled. Great Family member Jesse attends the Vampire Lestat concert to

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JADEMAN COMICS

<> **The Blood Sword 50** 68pg $1.95
<> **The Blood Sword Dynasty 37** $1.25
<> **Drunken Fist 49** 68pg $1.95
<> **Force of Buddha's Palm 50** 68pg $1.95
<> **The Iron Marshall 26** $1.75
<> **Oriental Heroes 50** 68pg $1.95

KITCHEN SINK PRESS

<> **Grateful Dead Comix 6** (various) Comic strip interpretations of the band's songs. Magazine format. 40pg $4.95
<> **Grateful Dead Comix** (hbk; various) Limited edition hardback, collecting **Grateful Dead Comix** 1-4. 128pg $39.95
<> **Harvey Kurtzman's Hey Look!** (Kurtzman) Rescheduled. Collects Kurtzman's pre-**MAD Magazine** *Hey Look!* newspaper strips from 1946-1948. Includes additional text material and an introduction by John Benson. Available in 2 formats. 208pg $15.95/$29.95
<> **Invisible People Part 2: The Power** (Eisner) Will Eisner pursues his theme of the anonymity and isolation that life in a big city brings in this story of Morris, whose power to heal turns out to be anything but the blessing it should be... b&w 40pg $3.95
<> **Li'l Abner vol 14: 1948 Dailies** Rescheduled. Collected newsstrips, focusing on the marketing-dream creation, the Shmoos. Introduction by top fantasy author Harlan Ellison. Available in paperback and hardback editions b&w 168pg $18.95/$34.95

MALIBU

<> **Tarzan: Love, Lies & The Lost City 1** (of 3; anthology; various) Featuring *Opar, Chapter 1* (of 3; Kure & Snejdbjerg + Kristiansen); *Tarzan's First Love* (adaptation of an Edgar Rice Burroughs story by Wanger & Kristiansen); *The Scar* (adaptation: Simonson & Snejbjerg). Flipbook format. Colour, 48 pages $3.95
<> **The Protectors 1** (R. A. Jones & Derenick + Deodato) First of a new series featuring the government-sanctioned activities of a band of super-heroes, commissioned this issue to negate the threat of villain Mr Monday, who threatens to destroy Virginia. Available in two editions, direct (includes free poster) and newsstand version. $2.50/$1.95

MARVEL COMICS

SHIPPING AUGUST 4th

<> **Avengers 354** (Kaminski & Wyman + Palmer) The Grim Reaper returns to stake his claim with the Avengers - and brings with him a legion of the unliving... $1.25
<> **Avengers West Coast 87** (Thomas & Ross + Dzon) The teamsters discover group of exiled revisionist Soviet agents trying to re-write history by declaring Alaska Russian once again. As the Avengers are meant to be in the territory purely for rest and recreation, they find themselves somewhat at a disadvantage - but Wolverine stands in for the cavalry. $1.25
<> **Cage 7** (McLaurin & Tuner + Ivy) *The Evil and the Cure, Part 3* (of 4). Cage chases the illusive Power-Man Steele, who threatens to mutate humanity into a clone - en masse - of himself. The Avengers West Coast guest-star. $1.25
<> **Captain America 408** (Gruenwald & Levins + Bulanadi) Diamondback has to break the news of his membership of the Skeleton Crew to the Captain when he meets him for the first time in 12 months. With guest-stars the Falcon, Dr Druid, the Skeleton Crew and the Red Skull. $1.25
<> **Daredevil 309** (Chichester & McDaniel + LaRosa) *Dead Man's Hand, Part 7* (of 9). Nomad and the Punisher join Daredevil for the unveiling of the intelligence behind the organised crime scams. $1.25
<> **Darkhawk 20** (Fingeroth & Manley) *Portals of Power, Part 3*. Spider-Man and Sleepwalker suddenly desert Darkhawk, leaving him to deal with the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants and Portal alone. Story concludes in **Sleepwalker** 17. $1.25
<> **Hellraiser III: Hell on Earth** (Atkins & Kim) Resched. Scripted by the *Hellraiser III* movie screenwriter Peter Atkins, this bookshelf format adaptation tells of Pinhead's rebellion against Leviathan and subsequent bid for domination on Earth. Also available in magazine format. Adult, N, V. $4.95/$2.95
<> **Marvel Comics Presents 112** (various) Featuring: *Ghost Rider/ Werewolf by Night; Warlock and the Infinity Watch* and *Wonder Man*. Cover: Kieth. $1.50
<> **Memories** (Otomo) One-shot sequel to **Akira** and **Farewell to Weapons**, in which the three central protagonists find a mysteriously deserted space station still operating as if manned - but the only evidence of the crew which once occupied it is the decaying body of a woman - and the adventurers suddenly realise that they've walked into a trap. $2.50
<> **Namor 31** (Byrne & Jae Lee + Albrecht) Namor steams into Doctor Doom, arch-enemy of the Fantastic Four and designer of a new fishing technology which threatens global marine life. $1.25
<> **Night Thrasher: Four Control 1** (of 4; Nicieza & Hoover) First in a series dedicated to the leader of the New Warriors, and continuing *Nothing but the Truth* from **New Warriors** 25. Chord, who is key to the preservation of the status quo in the Taylor Foundation has been kidnapped. If Night Thrasher can find him before the Foundation is taken over, he can and gain control over his future. Cover: Bagley and Hoover. $2.00
<> **Nomad 6** (Nicieza & Oliffe + McKenna) *Dead Man's Hand, Part 8* (of 9) The Punisher and Daredevil guest-star in this issue's confrontation between Nomad and the Slug. Cover: Hawbaker and McKenna. $1.75
<> **The Original Ghost Rider vol. 2 #4** (Friedrich & Ploog + Monte) Satan, Crash Simpson and Medicine Man join forces in a bid to terminate Johnny Blaze. Cover: Quesada and Harps. $1.75
<> **Punisher Armoury** (Brown) More detailed information concerning the Punisher's extensive range of weaponry. Cover: Braithwaite. $2.00
<> **She-Hulk 44** (Byrne) Having dispensed with Xemnu, the She-Hulk measures up to her next other-worldly villain - the fearsome (?) Rocket Raccoon. $1.75
<> **Spider-Man: Soul of the Hunter** (DeMatteis & Zeck + McLeod) Sequel to *Fearful Symmetry: Kraven's Last Hunt* has Spider-Man locked into a morbid battle of psyches with the tormented ghost of Kraven. Cover: Zeck and Zimmelman. Bookshelf format. $5.95
<> **Spider-Man: The Saga of the Alien Costume** (tpbk; DeFalco & Stern, Frenz + Leonardi) Collects **Amazing Spider-Man** 252-259. 192pg $12.95
<> **Terror Inc. 4** (Chichester & Zaffino) Terror and his new aide de camp, Hellfire, discover that the only way to unwrap Hellfire's mysterious past is to subvert Barbatos - and Beelzelboul's satanic forces in one fell swoop. Dr Strange guest-stars. $1.75
<> **Toxic Crusaders 6** (Furman & Frazier + Severin) Satirical pastiche of that eminently spoofable eco-comic (TV series, merchandising and so on,) **Captain Planet**.

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<> **Uncanny X-Men 293** (Lobdell & Raney) Colossus's insane brother, Mikhail returns to the Morlocks' tunnel under the protection of Callisto, and the mechanism of Archangel's wings is explained. $1.25

<> **Warlock 6** (of 6; Starlin & Rubenstein) Final part of the series, with the Avengers, the Thing and Spider-Man making guest appearances in the ultimate conflict between Thanos and Warlock. $2.50

<> **Web of Spider-Man 93** (Mackie & Savuik) First of a four-part story-line, in which Moon Knight appears, with an ominous increase in the malevolence of the Hobgoblin, Jason Macendale. $1.25

<> **World Championship Wrestling 7** (Lackey & Wilson + Hudson) More muscle-bound male bonding in the ring. $1.25

<> **X-Men: From the Ashes** (tpbk; Claremont, Smith, Simonson & Romita Jr. + Wiacek) Collects **X-Men** 168-176. 224pg $14.95

SHIPPING AUGUST 11th

<> **Alpha Flight 113** (Larsen & Brasfield) Guardian reviews a battle she had with the increasingly unstable Mauler to Weapon Omega, and finally reveals the secrets of her battlesuit... $1.75

<> **Amazing Spider-Man 367** (Michelinie & Bagley + Emberlin) Continued story-line from **Amazing Spider-Man** 365, in which a doppelganger of Spider-Man himself appears - Solo, the terrorist hunter. $1.25

<> **Barbie 22** (Trusiani & various) Holiday romance is in the air for Barbie and chaperone Christie, but there's no sex here, just an exchange of friendship rings as the two chums sojourn in Greece. $1.25

<> **Bill & Ted's Excellent Comic Book 11** (Dorkin & M. Severin) Bill and Ted break a fundamental time-travel rule when they try to prevent the assassination of a friend. $1.25

<> **Captain Planet 12** (of 12; various) Anthology finale to the eco-comic, featuring three short stories. $1.25

<> **Cable 1** (of 2; Nicieza & Romita, Jr + Green) Cable and Styfe clash when the former suspects the latter of being the perpetrator of thefts of priceless artifacts from all over the globe, and that the missing link is the Mutant Liberation Front. $2.50

<> **Darkhold 1** (Cooper & Case + McKenna) *Rise of the Midnight Sons, Part 4* (of 6). Darkhold is the name given to an Ark of the Covenant-type casket in which was hidden the majority of the evidence appertaining to the existence of Chthon, one of the elder Earth gods ousted by a younger generation of deities. Chthon has ensured his re-deification by engineering that pages of the document on which the evidence was recorded should appear, in black envelopes, carried by a dwarf... It takes an occultist (no *there*'s a surprise!), Interpol and the combined forces of the Midnight Sons (John Blaze and Ghost Rider) to sort out this enigma, and a double-sized issue to achieve it. Includes free poster by A. and A. Kubert $2.75

<> **Ghost Rider 30** (Mackie & Kubert + Kubert) As Ketch approaches death, he wanders into Nightmare's realm, taking the Ghost Rider with him. It's inevitable of course, that Nightmare and Ghost Rider should meet - and fight once again - if only for old times sake. But much more is at stake on this occasion; in fact, Ghost Rider and Ketch's entire future rests on the result of the confrontation. $1.75

<> **Groo 4: Groo Dynasty** (tpbk; Aragones & Evanier) Collects **Groo the Wanderer** 13-16 Cover: Aragones. 96pg $8.95

<> **Groo the Wanderer 94** (Aragones & Evanier) In a story originally billed to appear in **Groo** 93, Groo sets off to get a piece of glacier to supply a town in desperate need of water. $2.25

<> **Guardians of the Galaxy 29** (Valentino & Trimpe + Montano) *Infinity War* cross-over, in which the defense of the Avengers' mansion is made almost impossible by Dr Octopus importing another set of doppelgangers to fight the Guardians and the baddies themselves. Confused? $1.25

<> **Hellraiser 16** (various) Featuring: *Devil's Brigade, Part 17* (Chichester & Ashby); a prelude to next issue's story *The Harrowers* (M. Smith & McMahon). Cover: Martin. Adult, V, N. $4.95

<> **Marvel Super-Heroes 11** (various) Featuring three stories: *Fireworks, Giant Man* and *Ms Marvel 25*, which focuses on her confrontation with the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants and meeting with Rogue. Cover: Budiansky and Texiera. $2.50

<> **Metropol A.D. 1** (McKeever) First of a three-part sequel to **Metropol**, with humanity on the brink of another great war and the Angels their only hope of escaping annihilation. Mature readers. $3.50

<> **Moon Knight Special 1** (Moench & Nichols) *Return to Mordillo Island* sees Moon Knight - against his better judgement - helping Shang-Chi reclaim the "stolen spirits" from Mordillo, and teams up in an unlikely alliance with the Fist of Konchu to achieve it... Backing strip is *Moon Blight, the Motion Picture* (Higgins & Severin), which, while satirising the film industry, uses Moon Knight as the patsy of the story. Also includes a pin-up gallery with work by Romita, Jr., Colan, Heck, Frenz and Templeton. 48pg $2.50

<> **Onyx Overlord 1** (of 4; Moebius & Lofficier + Bingham) Sequel to **Airtight Garage**, in which detective Finnegar - an ornery kind of P.I. discovers that the horrific machinations of Famechon Plikan will mean the breach of the barrier between Finnegar's world and the Onyx Overlord. Also includes additional backing strip - a new story by Moebius. $2.75

<> **Pendragon II 4** (Marvel UK; Tomlinson, Abnett & Gascoine + Bullya) Gawain (the less than rational robot) fights Bane in order to avert a disaster at a nuclear power station in Scotland. $1.75

<> **Punisher & Captain America: Blood and Glory 1** (of 3; "bookshelf format"; Chichester & Clark + Janson) Rescheduled. The Punisher and Captain America step on each other's toes when they independently investigate yet another - allegedly - drugs for guns conspiracy contrived by the US government. $5.95

<> **Punisher War Zone 8** (Dixon & Romita Jr + Janson) The Punisher - and his unwillingly accepted female police officer partner - continue their investigation of the rapist preying on victims in Central Park. $1.75

<> **Quasar 39** (Gruenwald & Lightle + Candelario) *Infinity War* cross-over. Quasar, poised on the brink of activating the Ultimate Nullifier, has second thoughts when Deathurge advises him of the consequences to *him personally* if he goes ahead. $1.25

<> **Savage Sword of Conan 202** (R. Thomas & Buscema + Chan) When Conan and his pirate crew are imprisoned on the remote shores of Kush, their only hope of escape is the Ravager of Worlds, Imhotep. Cover: Rabinowitz. Magazine. b&w $2.25

<> **Silver Sable 5** (Wright & Butler + Sanders III) *Infinity War* cross-over, in which Sable finds herself trapped into a fight with Doom's doppelganger and the Doombots. $1.25

<> **Sleepwalker 17** (Budiansky & Blevins) *Portals of Power* - continuing a story-line from **Darkhawk** 20. Sleepwalker, trying to use Portal to return to the Mindscape, finds himself dealing with the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. Spider-Man and Darkhawk guest-star. $1.25

<> **Wolverine 62** (Hama & ?/?) Focusing on Sabretooth's belief that Logan is his father, and the nature of his relationship with Wolverine. $1.75

<> **Wonder Man 14** (Jones & Johnson + Panosian) *Infinity War* cross-over. The exploration team is confronted with a united Warlock and Thanos, and Wonder Man continues to experience problems with his powers. $1.25

SHIPPING AUGUST 18th

<> **Avengers 355** (Kaminski & Wyman + Palmer) The Avengers' battle with the Grim Reaper and his Legion of the Unliving continues... $1.25

<> **Bloodlines: A Tale from the Heart of Africa** (bookshelf format; Goff & Nieves + Hayden) Rescheduled. Picking up continuity from Epic's **The Temporary Natives**, this special focuses on Central Africa Peace Corps volunteer Cathy Grant, whose friend is determined to marry an African and take him home with her. The association with Sylvestre Man leads Cathy Grant into a mire of political shenanigans, prominently featuring murderous tyrant President Bokassa... 48pg $5.95

<> **Conan 261** (Thomas & Cruz) Conan, whilst traversing Cimmeria, encounters the Cult of the Death Goddess. $1.25

<> **Excalibur 55** (A. Davis & Farmer) *The Haunting of Braddock Manor, Part 1*. During a house-warming party, Excalibur find that some unexpected guests make for interesting entertainment. $1.75

<> **Fish Police 1** (Moncuse) Reprint - in colour - of a series previously published by the Epic imprint. $2.25

<> **GI Joe 129** (Hama & Wildman + Downs) The Cobra Commander hatches his most serious plot yet to disempower the Joes $1.25

<> **Hell's Angel 4** (Marvel UK imprint; Jaye & Senior) Hell's Angel and the MySTECH clash in Mephisto's territory. Guest-starring the X-Men. $1.75

<> **Incredible Hulk 398** (David & Keown + Farmer) *Ghost of the Past, Part 2* (of 4). Frenetic action as the Hulk fights the Leader's Riot Squad, the Leader himself goes head-to-head with Agamemnon, Betty and Marlo are pursued by the psychotic mother of the kidnapped Jones and there's a catastrophe in store for one of the heroines... $1.25

<> **Marvel Age 117** Featuring promotional information about the first of four new titles to be set in 2099, a *2099* strip (to run in **Marvel Age**), articles on the *Rise of the Midnight Suns* saga and the Marvel Masterpiece trading cards. Cover: Ryan. $1.00

<> **Marvel Comics Presents 113** (various) Featuring: *Wolverine, Giant Man vs Goliath, Part 1* (of 6); *Werewolf by Night* and *Ghost Rider and Man-Thing, Part 1* (of 6). Cover: Kieth. $1.50

<> **Marvel Tales 266** (Stern & DeFalco, Frenz + Breeding) Reprints **Amazing Spider-Man** 252. $1.25

<> **Morbius 2** (Kaminski & Wagner + Witherby) Morbius has turned vigilante, pursuing "criminal low-life", but what he doesn't know is that the hunter is now prey himself to an old enemy - Simon Stroud. Featuring also a guest appearance by Peter Parker. $1.75

<> **Nightbreed 20** (Wright & Harris + Nelson) Hired killers, hunters, werewolves, the Breed and innocents are trapped in the forest together, and the inevitable happens... not that it makes much difference if you don't *really* die, anyway. Mature readers. $2.50

<> **Punisher 71** (Abnett & Lanning, Braithwaite + Williamson) Post *Eurohit* stasis. $1.25

<> **SHIELD 40** (Brown & Sharp) *Cold War of Nick Fury, Part 3* (of 4). Nick has an unpleasant surprise when he discovers that an undercover KGB agent is an old friend from WWII days. $1.75

<> **Spider-Man 27** (MacGregor & Rogers + Williams) Spider-Man finds himself dealing with the topical issue of the use of guns by kids on the streets in the good ol' US... $1.75

<> **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3-D Summer Spectacular** (Welsh Publishing imprint; various) One-shot 3-D, includes free poster by Turtles co-creator Peter Laird. Additional material concerning the history of 3-D movie productions and additional background information about the Turtles' universe. Magazine. 36pg $2.50

<> **Warlock and the Infinity Watch 9** (Starlin & Medina + Almond) *Infinity War* cross-over. Gamora is sent on a mercy mission by Galactus to wake Eternity from his Magus-induced trance. (RO) $1.75

<> **What If? 42** (Gallagher & West) *"What if Spider-Man Had Kept His Extra Arms?* Continuing the story-line established in **Amazing Spider-Man** 100-102. Morbius guest-stars. $1.25

<> **X-Factor 83** (David & ? + ?) X-Factor arrive in Genosha to find the new Gengineer and X-Force waiting there for them. $1.25

<> **X-Men 13** (Nicieza & Thibert) If Xavier's going to find out his father's real identity he's got to plough his way through the now psychopathic Hazard. $1.25

SHIPPING AUGUST 25th

<> **Alien Legion: Grimrod** (Dixon & McMahon) One-shot "bookshelf format" story featuring the adventures of Jugger Grimrod, styled as "one of the most popular members of the Nomad Squadron". 48pg $5.95

<> **Barbie Fashion 22** (Slate & ? + ?) Wet daydreaming for Barbie, when she visits the city aquarium with Ken. $1.25

<> **Conan Saga 67** (Thomas & Buscema + Chan) The King returns to claim his bride, Zenobia, but Tarascus plans to make sure that he never leaves Belverus again... $2.25

<> **Deathlok 16** (McDuffie & Cowan + Manley) *Infinity War* cross-over. Deathlok is pursued by his nemesis - and twin - Evilok. Cover: Lightle. $1.75

<> **Dr Strange 46** (Thomas & Isherwood) *Infinity War* cross-over. Dr. Strange heads up a force comprising the Scarlet Witch, Dr. Druid, Shaman and Agatha Harkness in a mission to prevent Magus' domination of Earth. $1.75

<> **Fantastic Four 369** (DeFalco & Ryan + Bulanadi) *Infinity War* cross-over. $1.25

<> **Ghost Rider/Blaze: Spirits of Vengeance 3** (Mackie & Kubert + Warner) Ghost Rider and Blaze face one of Lilith's most powerful lieutenants in a no-holds-barred battle. $1.75

<> **Infinity Gauntlet** (tpbk; Starlin & Perez, Lim + Rubenstein) Collects the **Infinity Gauntlet** mini-series. Cover: Starlin. $19.95

<> **Infinity War 5** (of 6; Starlin & Lim + Milgrom) *Infinity War* cross-over, with this comic being the penultimate chapter in the story-line. All the story threads gather together at what is very nearly the end of the Infinity saga, with everything hanging on the reappearance of the Living Tribunal. $2.50

<> **Iron Man 285** (Kaminiski & Hopgood + Wiacek) As Tony Stark's body is about to be interred, old enemies and new make their presences felt, and Rhodey's forced to defend Stark's - and his own - honour. $1.25

<> **James Bond Jr. 10** (Abnett & Capaldi + Georgiou) Jamsh'sh nephew takes a dangerous message on board in this issue's story: a boy at the Academy is *better* than he is at most things - and then Bond discovers that he's a (Dr. DeRange-owned) robot. A bad

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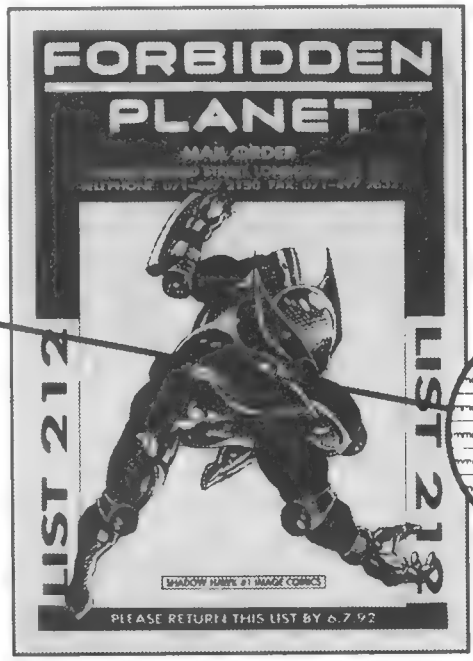

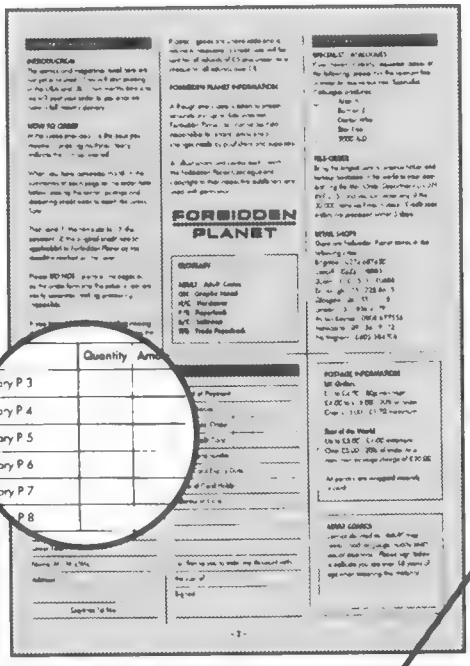

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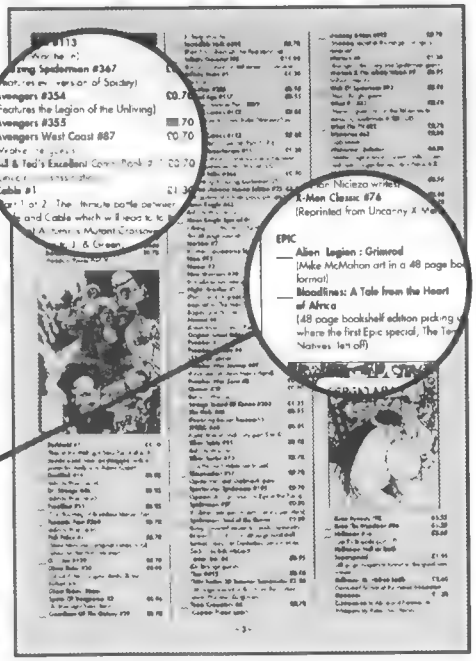

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precedent, and difficult for the lad to live up to... $1.25

<> **Kid 'n' Play 9** (Coye & Frazier + Boyd) Marvel super-heroes make "guest" cameo appearances during the hallucinogenic fantasies Play experiences (as a result of emotional traumas and bad pizza). $1.25

<> **Marvel Universe Master Edition 23** (Gruenwald & Pollard + Rubenstein) Character portraits, including Deathlok, Psylocke, Batroc, Sunfire and the first of a series of X-Men group posters. $4.50

<> **Moon Knight 43** (Kavanagh & Kwapisz + Palmer) *Infinity War* cross-over. There seems little hope for Moon Knight's survival as he confronts dozens of doppelgangers in a Four Plazas stand-off. $1.75

<> **Motormouth 5** (Marvel UK; Marks & Frank + Smith) With Archangel and Excalibur guest-starring, and Nick Fury captured by MySTECH, the activities of a minor character like Motormouth - even in her own title - seem largely irrelevant. Just for the record, she finds herself fighting robots, side by side with Killpower $1.75

<> **The 'Nam 73** (Lomax & Vansant, Harris + Palmiotti) A change of focus - to the home front - is marked by the return of an old character. $1.75

<> **New Warriors 28** (Nicieza & Robertson + Mahlstedt) Introduces three new characters. Cover: Bagley & Mahlstedt. $1.25

<> **Punisher War Journal 47** (Dixon & Hebert + Fredricks) *Dead Man's Hand, Part 9* (of 9). The Punisher, Daredevil and Nomad fight back to back in their most arduous battle to date, with the united forces of the Mob, Hydra and the Secret Empire. $1.75

<> **Silver Surfer 73** (Marz & Wyman + Christopher) *The Herald Ordeal.* Silver Surfer, Nova and Firelord combine to outwit Morg, Galactus's current aide de camp. $1.25

<> **Spectacular Spider-Man 193** (DeMatteis & S. Buscema) *Eye of the Puma* - conclusion. The Black Crow has Puma and Spider-Man dancing to any tune he wants to play... $1.25

<> **Thor 452** (DeFalco & Frenz + Milgrom) Lady Sif and Balder expose the secret identity of Mephisto's prisoner. $1.25

<> **Warheads 5** (Marvel UK; Vince & Jennet) X-Force are targeted by the energy-hungry Aeish, and the Warheads try to find a way out of her seemingly inescapable prison. $1.75

<> **What The?! 22** (various) *Echs-Farce* - an entire issue dedicated to X-title parody. $1.25

<> **William Shatner's Tekworld 2** (Goulart & Sullivan) Jake Cardigan's quest to eliminate the cybernetic drug Tek takes him to the 21st century Mexico. $1.75

<> **Wolverine Evilution** (Nocenti & Texeira) One-shot mystery thriller, with a Nineties story-line: an amalgam of ancient myth and New Age fantasy. 48pg $5.95

<> **X-Force 15** (Nicieza & Capullo) With their HQ wrecked and Cable having left the team, X-Force starts to take the notion of returning to Xavier very seriously indeed. $1.25

<> **X-Men Classic 76** (Claremont & Smith + Wiacek) Reprints **Uncanny X-Men** 172 $1.25

MILLENIUM

<> **Doc Savage: The Devil's Thoughts 3** (of 3; Moore & Stiles + Stanage) Savage's defeat of Hanoi Shan in a demon-infested jungle city leads to the loss of the only woman who ever loved Doc. Cover: Harris. $2.50

MIRAGE STUDIOS

<> **Deluxe TMNT Book One** (Facsimile pbk; Eastman & Laird) Celebration of 50th issue of the TMNT comic, with this duo-tone reproduction of issue one early Eastman and Laird character development work, with introduction by Harlan Ellison. Also available in signed hbk edition. b&w 64pg $24.95/$5.95

<> **Space Usagi 3** (of 3; Sakai) Usagi enters into terminal combat with Matabe, as Akira and the Princess Masako wait for their destiny to become apparent - with the end of the fight. Cover : Sakai. b&w $2.00

<> **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 50** (Eastman & Laird) *City at War, Part 1* (of 13). A revitalising injection of Eastman/ Laird talent marks the 50th issue and the beginning of a new 13-part story-line, featuring also a gallery with contributions by creators including McFarlane, Simonson, Larsen, etc. $2.00

MONSTER COMICS

<> **The Cabinet of Dr Caligari 3** (of 3; adaptation: Carney & Hoffman) Derived from an early 20th century German film. b&w 24pg $2.25

<> **Freaks 3** (of 4; adaptation: Woodring & Lopez) *The Wedding Feast.* From Tom Browning's classic film. b&w 24pg $2.50

NOW COMICS

<> **The Green Hornet 14** (Dixon & T. Smith + Mowry) Third anniversary special story, part 3 of 3, concluding the Johnny Dollar & Crimson Wasp battle. $1.95

<> **The Green Hornet Anniversay Special 3** News trade edition of above direct sale **Green Hornet 14.** $1.95

<> **Married: With Children: Kelly Bundy Special 3** (T. Addams & Richmond + Mowry) Part three of a three-part mini-series derived from the TV series spin-off. $1.95

<> **Ralph Snart Adventures** (tpbk; Hansen) Collecting **Ralph Snart Adventures vol 2** issues 1-3. $7.95

<> **Ralph Snart Adventures 3-D Special 1** (Hansen) In the land 3-Dia Ralph meets Dr. Groot and a monster with uncontrolled saliva glands. $2.95

<> **Tales of the Green Hornet vol 3 #3** (Van Hise & DeCaire + Kaalberg) Britt Reid takes some time out to help an old friend investigate something mysterious in the Canadian forests. $2.50

<> **The Twilight Zone 12** (McGreal & Murphy) Yet another scientist playing God games comes to griefin a tale with a Frankenstinian moral... $1.95

<> **Universal Soldier 2** (of 3; McElroy & Fox + Villagran) Adapted from the SF feature film (yet to be seen in the UK). V. 32pg clr $1.95

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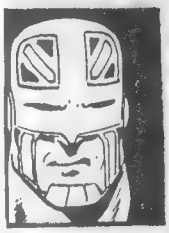
<> **Doll 8** (Colwell) Adult comic - N, S, b&w and an increased cover price $2.95



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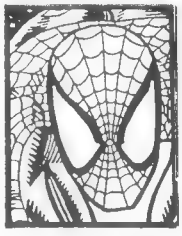

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<> **The Girl 2** (Taylor) Second printing. "Adult" comic - N, S. b&w $2.50
<> **Model by Day 2** (Taylor) Mature readers. b&w $2.50
<> **Post Brothers 27** (Howarth) The Post Bros come across a bunch of Post Bros imposters at a comics convention. Can't imagine why... Mature readers. b&w $2.50
<> **Underground Classics 1** (Shelton) *Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers 0.* Reprinted compilation from late '60s. Adult material. b&w 28pg $2.50

TUNDRA

<> **A. C. Farley Sketchbook** In *Tundra Sketchbook Series Volume 12* the work of **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** cover artist Farley is showcased; includes previously unpublished work. $4.95/£2.95
<> **Adventures in Rubber** (various) A look at the alternative life of the condom, with work by Moebius, Liberatore, Hewlett, Shelton, Emerson, Jooste Swarte, Varenne, Schultheiss, etc. Adult. 64pg $12.95/£4.99
<> **Cherry's Jubilee** (Weiz & various) First issue since 1977. Adult. b&w $2.95
<> **Desperadoes 1** (Cromwell & Ruffner) One-shot based on the supposed real-life adventures of three "desperate" bandits in the old West - whose history had been eradicated because American morality demanded it... Mature readers. 48pg $14.95/£8.95
<> **Greenhouse Warriors 2** (Dakin & Elliot) TV talk-show host Willy Withit is getting suspicious about the results of Doctor Glass's experiments. b&w 32pg $2.95/£1.95
<> **Lazarus Churchyard 2** (of 3; Ellis & D'Israeli) *Goodnight Ladies* is a collection of three short stories focusing on Lazarus's love-life. Mature readers. 40pg $3.95/£2.50
<> **Legends of Arzach: the Arzach Gallery vol 3** (Joint production: Starwatcher Graphics; Lofficier & Moebius + various) Collection of work inspired by Moebius' Arzach, including this issue, contributions by Sienkiewicz, Bissette, Gibbons, Brunner and Simonson, with a new short story by Moebius. part colour $12.95/£7.50
<> **The Maximortal 1** (Veitch) Based on the character True-Man, supposedly created in the '30s by two "Slumberg" kids, who, given the opportunity, will change the world for ever... Backing story is Veitch's comic-strip dream-life diary. Mature readers. 32pg $3.95/£2.50
<> **Mr Monster Attacks 1** (Michael T. Gilbert & various) With contributors like Bisley, Dorman and Gibbons, this is the first of three collections of new stories about the "greatest monster fighter the world has ever known". Covers: Dorman & Bisley. 32pg $3.95/£2.50
<> **Mythology of an Abandoned City** (Graphitti imprint; hbk; J. J. Muth) Agent Schiele uses the opportunity of a Division mission to take revenge for his wife's death. Includes free compact disc, signed and mounted photograph (each featuring J. J. Muth) and presentation case. Limited edition of 500. b&w 56pg $89.95
<> **Skidmarks 3** (of 3; Hillyer) Conclusion of the story of a boy and his bike (repr). b&w 32pg $2.95/£1.95

VALIANT

<> **Archer & Armstrong 4** (Windsor-Smith & Wiacek + Fontenot) *Ninja Nuns, Part 2.* A quick look at Eternity City for the boys, on a day out they'll never forget. $2.50
<> **The Eternal Warrior 4** (Shooter & J. Dixon + Autio) Featuring Rising Spirit (whose own title launches later this year) in a story that takes Gilad into the stronghold of the One Great Enemy. $2.25
<> **Harbinger 11** (Shooter & Lapham + Mayo, Beccari) Who gets their just deserts and how is told in the conclusion to the conflict with the H.A.R.D. Corps (soon to have their very own title) in an issue that crosses over with **Elfquest** (!?) $2.50
<> **Magnus Robot Fighter 18** (Stern & Ditko, Reese + Jackson) All-actioner as Mekman makes a re-appearance, Elzy faces off Willow and E-7 formulates a plot to free the robots of North Am... $2.25
<> **Rai 0** (Shooter & St. Pierre, Reese + Jade) Laying the foundations (which will, no doubt be overturned in years to come by subsequent revelations!) for Valiant continuity from 1992 to 4001, including the origin of Japan's Rising Spirit and guest-starring almost the entire Valiant universe of characters. $2.25
<> **Shadowman 7** (Hall & Lapham, Ryder + Gonzalez) Shadowman fights for supremacy of the moonlit hours. $2.50
<> **Solar, Man of the Atom 10** (Shooter & Perlin, Drake + Cavaliero) Second printing of the origin issue. $3.95
<> **Solar, Man of the Atom 15** (Shooter & Perlin, Drake + Cavaliero) Bender and Solar's battle approaches a conclusion... $2.25
<> **X-O Manowar 10** (Layton & Leeke, Ryder + Gonzalez) Aric returns, and the X-O armour is modified. $2.25

VIZ COMMUNICATIONS

<> **Battle Angel Alita 2** (Kishiro) Daisuke's at first disapproving and then pleased to find that the cyborg he rescued from the trash-can has determined that she wants to follow *his* chosen profession: hunter-warrior. $2.75
<> **Crying Freeman Part Four 6** (of 8; Koike & Ikegami) Dark Eyes and Fu Ching Ling swim ashore to rescue Freeman, who's body is possessed by Nina Heaven. Adult, N, V. b&w $2.75
<> **Ranma 1/2 #4** (Takahashi) Upperclassman Kuno gets dazed and confused when he wakes up from the battering Ranma (in mannish mode) has given him: all Kuno can remember is that he's fallen for Ranma (in womanish mode)! b&w $2.75
<> **Sanctuary 6** (Fumimura & Ikegami) Asami cuts his losses and joins the opposition. Meanwhile, the yakuza clans try to decide who should be the new "Don", with Hojo nominating Tokai, and everyone else nominating Hojo... Mature readers. b&w 80pg $4.95
<> **Silent Mobius Book Three 1** (Asamiya) Lebia, finding that things are not what they should be in the Tokyo communications mainframe, gets hold of some illegal software and sets off in hot pursuit of the system's saboteur. $14.95

VORTEX

<> **Legends of Nascar 1** (hologram issue; Waid & Trimpe) Third printing - with hologram on cover - limited edition. $5.00
<> **Nascar Adventures 9: Michael Waltrip** (Gillespie & Gil + Iro) Third printing. Aged 20, Waltrip made his childhood hobby into a career when he won the 1983 Nascar Most Popular Driver Award. $2.00

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<> **Elfquest: New Blood Summer Special 1** (various) Richard and Wendy Pini take a break from their epic fantasy story while creators including Byrne, Beatty, Blair and Hernandez present *their* interpretations of the Elfquest Universe... 64pg $3.95

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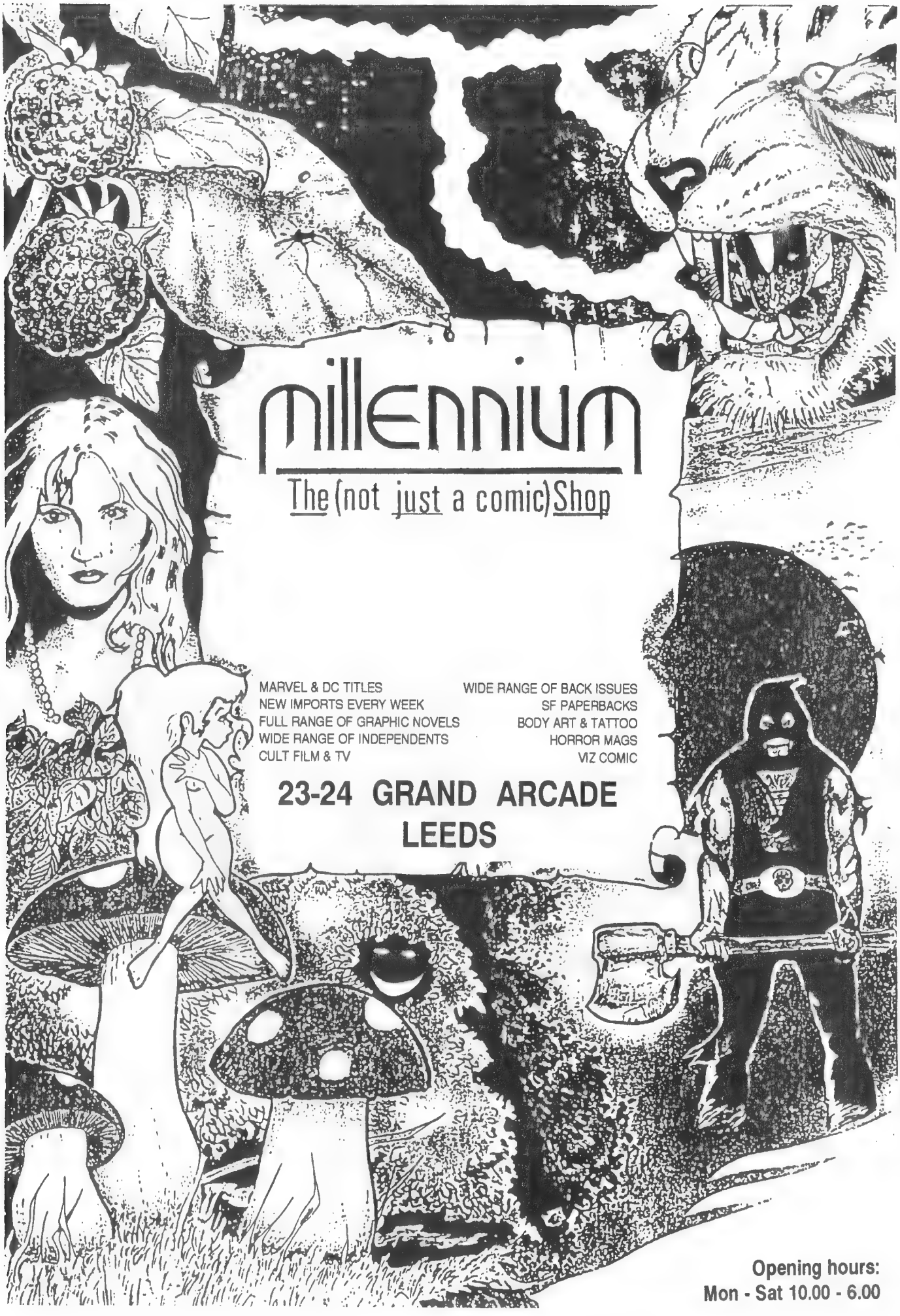
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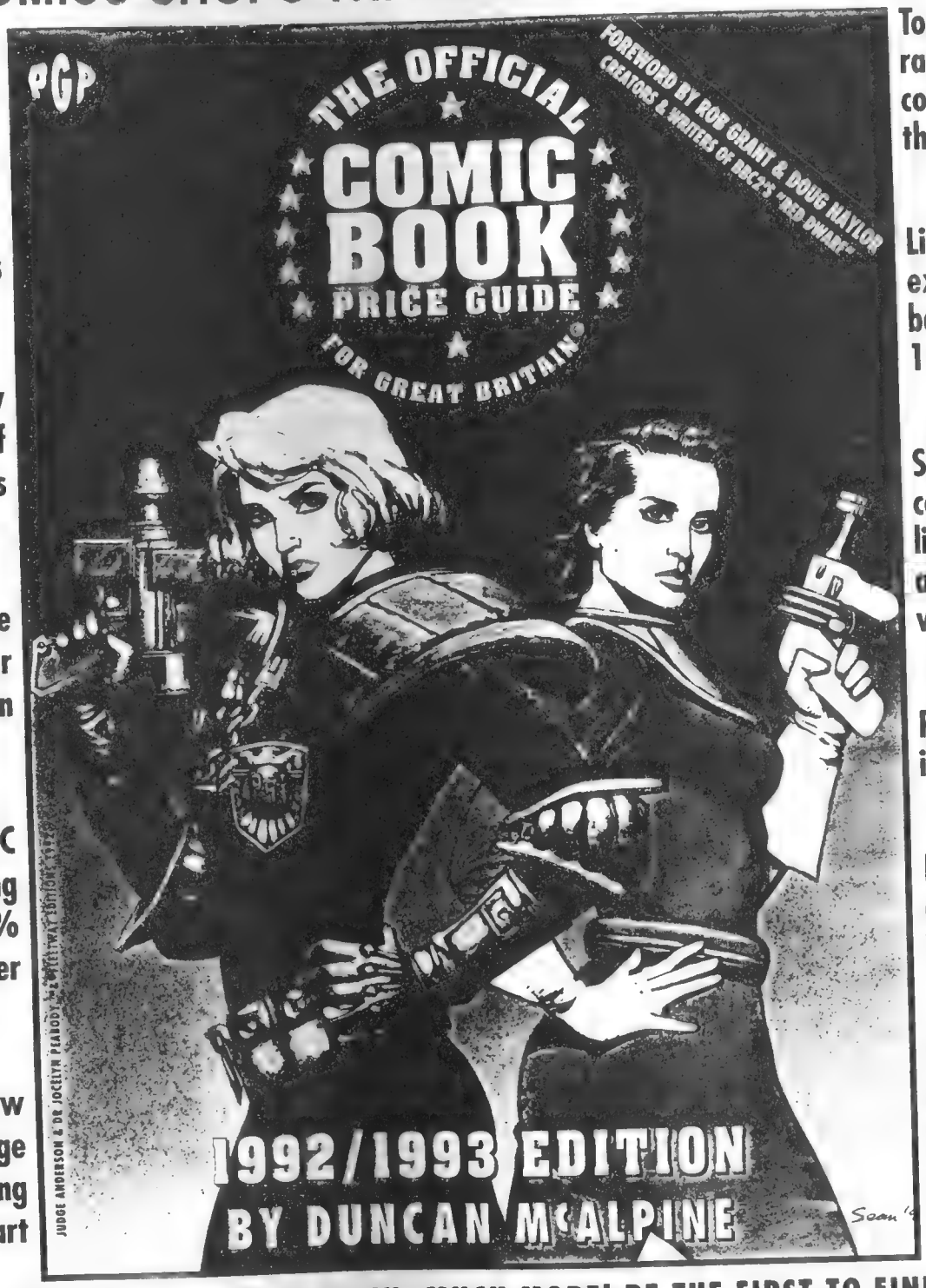

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RETAIL index

imp	= air imported new issues
back	= back issues stocked
s-p	= small press & fanzines
merch	= comics-related items (T-shirts, posters, games, models, portfolios etc)
ind	= US independent comics (non-newsstand titles)
Brit	= British titles
frgn	= foreign language comics
u/g	= underground comics
gn	= graphic novels & trade paperback editions
m/o	= mail order service
STO	= standing order service, new comics reserved

CENTRAL LONDON

■ **Acme Comic Shop**, 391 Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, London SW9 8LQ. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 7.00; Sat 9.30 - 6.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, original artwork) 071-274 6697

■ **Avalon Comics**, 143 Lavender Hill, London SW11. Mon - Thurs 10.00 - 5.45, Fri 10.00 - 7.00; Sat 9.30 - 6.00 (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO, m/o - send wants list) 071-924 3609

■ **Bayswater Books**, 27 Craven Terrace, Lancaster Gate, London W2 3EL. Mon - Sat 11.00 - 7.00 (flexi-hours, sometimes till midnight!) (back, ind, u/g, m/o to wants lists with sae, also general 2nd hand books, search service) 071 402 7398

■ **Comic Showcase**, 76 Neal St, London WC2. Mon - Wed 10.00 - 6.00; Thurs - Sat 10.00 - 7.00; Sun 12.00 - 5.00 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, u/gs, Brit, gn, cartoon books, original art) 071-240 3664

■ **Fantastic Store**, 166 Portobello Road, London W11. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 6.30; Sat 9.00 - 7.00. (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 071-221 3858

■ **Fantastic Store**, Virgin Megastore, 14-16 Oxford Street, London W1. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 8.00; Sun 12.00 - 7.00. (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 071-631 1234

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 71 New Oxford St, London WC1A 1DG Mon - Wed + Sat 10.00 - 6.00; Thurs + Fri 10.00 - 8.00 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, u/gs, Brit, frgn, gn, m/o, film & tv fantasy) 071 379 6042

■ **Gosh!** 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (opposite British Museum) 10 - 6 7 days a week inc Bank Hols. Late nights Thurs & Fri til 7.00 (imp, back, ltd merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, largest selection of newspaper strip compilations in UK) 071 636 1011

■ **Graphically Speaking**, 475 Bethnal Green Rd, London E2 9QH. Mon-Wed 11 - 6; Thurs-Sat 11 - 7; Sun 11 - 5. (imp, back, s-p, merch, u/g, Brit, ind, STO, m/o, graphic novel specialists) 071 613 0500

■ **Mega-City Comics**, 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ. Mon - Sun 10 - 6; late Thurs + Fri 'til 7. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film-tv fantasy, horror, body art, sub-culture (psychotronic, alternate reality, sub-genius, cult), m/o, STO) 071 485 9320

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin**, 1st Floor, Virgin Marble Arch, 527-531 Oxford St, London W1. Mon-Wed & Fri 9.30 - 7.30; Thurs 9.30-8.00; Sat 9.00 - 7.30; Sun 12.00-7.00 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, gn, STO, m/o) 071-499 8839 (fax 071-491 4806)

■ **Top Ten Soho**, Unit 3, 9-12 St Anne's Court, Soho, London W1V 3AX. Mon - Sat 10 - 6; Sun 12 - 5. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, m/o, STO) 071-734 7388

OUTER LONDON

■ **Atomic Comics**, 1112 High Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AH. Mon-Sat 10 - 6 excl Fri 10 - 7 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, 2nd hand horror fantasy sf bks, original art, m/o - no lists, send wants + sae or phone) 081-597 8547

■ **Calamity Comics**, 160 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2HR. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.00. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, m/o, STO, videos) 081-427 3831

■ **Comic Shack**, 720 High Road, Leytonstone, London E11 3NN. Mon - Thurs 9.30 - 5.30; Fri & Sat 9.30 - 5.30; Sun 11-5.30. Also by appointment (imp, back, s-p, merch, u/g, gn, hbks, m/o to wants list with sae) 081-539 7260 / 081-555 9303

■ **Dynamic Comics**, Units 70-72, In Shops Centre, 68 Church St, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RB. Mon - Sat 9.00 -5.30pm. (imp, back, ind, s-p, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, merch, m/o - send wants lists) phone & fax 081-681 2597

■ **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. Mon - Wed 10 - 6; Thurs 10 - 7; Fri 10 - 8; Sat 9 - 6. (imp, back, merch s-p, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO) 081-298 1363

■ **Gary's Book & Comic Stall**, Site A65, The High Street, Walthamstow, London E17. Thur + Fri 9.30 - 4.30; Sat 8.00 - 5.00. Tube: Walthamstow Central (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO, annuals, children's books)

■ **Infinity Comics**, 218 Francis Rd, Leyton, London E10 6NQ. Mon - Sat 10.30 - 6.30 (imp, back, ind, STO, m/o) 081 556 2727

■ **Krypton Komics**, 252 High Rd, Tottenham, London N15 4AJ (next to Tesco) Mon-Fri 9.30 - 6.00, Sat 9 - 6.30. Tube: Seven Sisters Road. (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO, m/o) 081-801 5378

■ **Readers Dream**, 100A Harlington Road West, Feltham, (near Heathrow airport) Middlesex TW14 0JJ. Mon-Sat 9.30 - 6.00 excl Weds - closed. (imp, back, gn, STO, computer repairs) 081-844 0780

■ **Skinny Melink's Comic Shop**, 66 Loampit Vale, Lewisham, London SE 13. Mon - Thur 11 - 6.30; Fri 11 - 7; Sat 10 - 6.30; Sun 11 - 4. (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 081-318 0499

■ **Stateside Comics PLC**, 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF. Mon-Wed 10 - 7; Thur-Fri 10-8; Sat 9-6; Sun 10-3 (later by appointment). (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, tv-film & fantasy, gn, m/o, STO) 081-449 5535 (10 lines)

■ **They Walk Among Us**, 30 Union Court, Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1AA. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 excl Fri 9.30-6 (imp, merch, back, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, fantasy/s-f/horror books, Falcon Press, trading cards, RESearch & other sub-culture, STO, wants lists welcomed) Ph/fax 081 948 8476

■ **Time Trek**, 46 High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1TR. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.30 (late Thurs to 8) (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, sf TV & film related merch, STO) 081 313 0677

■ **Twilight Zone (London)**, 36 Bell Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3PB. Opens Sat March 14. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.30 (imp, back, ind, gn, m/o). 081 570 2399

■ **Westside Comics**, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Middlesex. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO). Opening soon: for updates, telephone Phil on 081-756 0485

■ **White Light Books**, 695 Seven Sisters Road, London N15. Mon - Sat 9 - 7.00. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/gs, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, sf fantasy horror gn, tv sf mags & books, sub-culture) 081-880 2258

SOUTH EAST

■ **Asylum Comics**, t/a Grosvenor News, 64 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AS. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 6.00, Sun 9.00 - 2.00. (imp, back, gn, frgn, ind, Brit, STO, wants lists welcome) 0892 521827

■ **American Comic Enterprise**, 1 Headgate Buildings, St John's Street, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts) 0206 561 912

■ **Cartoon Shop**, Upper Galleries, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Basildon, Essex. Mon - Wed & Sat 10.00 - 6.00, Thurs & Fri 10.00 - 8.00. (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 0268 534194

■ **Cartoon Shop**, 21-22 Talza Way, Lower Ground Floor, Victoria Circus Centre, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 0702 613021

■ **Chaos City Comics**, Unit 86 - 87, In Shops, The Maltings, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3HLO (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO) 0727 838719

■ **Comic Showcase**, 19-20 St Clements Street, Oxford. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0865-723680

■ **Excaliber Comics**, 19 The Hornet, Unit 1, The Alms House Arcade, Chichester, West Sussex. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 7.00 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, gn, Brit, m/o, STO, RPG, videos) 0243 537070

■ **Fantastic Store**, Virgin Megastore, 157-161 Western Road, Brighton BN1 2BB. Mon-Wed 9 - 6; Thurs 9 - 8; Fri-Sat 9 - 6. (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 0273-25300

■ **Paperback Reader**, 82 Queens Road, Hastings, TN34 1RL. Mon - Sat (excl Wed, closed) 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, assorted 2nd hand ppbks) 0424 446749

■ **Siegl's Comics & Bags**, Unit 3, 6 Orange St, Canterbury, Kent. Mon - Sat 9 - 6 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, tv SF, gum cards, classic sf memorabilia, m/o) 0227 470840

■ **Whatever Comics**, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, model kits) 0227 453226

MIDLANDS

■ **Another World**, 23 Silver Street, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0533 515266

■ **Another World**, 11 Market Street, Nottingham. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0602 484 122

■ **Arrival Comics**, 2 Broad Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.15. imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, horror videos, adult (non-porn) mags 0902-313 660

■ **Bookworm**, Unit 3 33-39 Tower Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Mon - Sat 11.00 - 4.00. (back, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, fantasy & sf, early Penguins, general fic & non-fic, records) 0553 760904/771880

■ **Central City Comics**, 4 Eagle St, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon - Sat 10 - 6. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO, m/o: wants lists with sae) 0473 233017

■ **Comic Showcase**, 17 Norfolk Street, Cambridge. Mon - Fri 11.00 -6.00; Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0223-69206

■ **Comics Unlimited**, 4 Clair Court, Lime Street, Bedford. Mon 9.00 - 8.00pm; Tues - Sat 9.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, STO, RPG)

■ **Demon Comics**, 12 Berrington Street, Hereford HR4 0BJ. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.00. (imp, back, merch, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, t-shirts, sci-fi models) 0432 358355

■ **Fantastic Store**, 6 Suffolk Street, Queensway, Birmingham B1 1LT. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 6; Sat 9 - 6. (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 021-643 3667

■ **Fantastic Store**, Virgin Megastore, 6-8 Wheelergate, Nottingham. Mon - Sat 9 - 6. (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 0602-476246

■ **Fantasy World**, 10 Market Square Arcade, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1NU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0782 279294 (fax 0782 202381)

■ **Ground Zero**, 11 Hanley Arcade, Mansfield, Notts NG18 1NQ. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, m/o, STO, accessories) 0623 22017

■ **Magic Labyrinth**, 34-36 Rutland Street, Leicester LE1 1RD. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, ind, gn, u/g, frgn, merch, s-p, m/o, STO, RPG)

■ **Nostalgia & Comics**, 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon - Thurs 9.15 - 5.45, Fri + Sat 9.15 - 6. (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, m/o, STO) 021 643 0143

■ **Outer Limits**, 4 The Broadway, Bedford, MK40 2TH. Tues - Sat 9am - 6pm, Mon 9am - 8pm. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, video) 0234 358581

■ **Outer Limits**, 12 King Street, Luton LU1 2DP. Mon-Sat 9 - 6; Thurs late night until 8. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, video) 0582 422082

■ **Planet X**, 5 London Road, Worcester Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, m/o, STO - advance orders taken monthly) Phone/fax: 0905 355055

■ **Time Zone**, 12 Fish Street (off Butcher Row), Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, m/o, STO, RPG) 0743 365192

■ **Zoom Comics!!**, Units 46-47, 'In Shops' Centre, Sutton Market Hall, 97 The Parade, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham. Tues - Sat 9.00 - 5.30. (back issue specialist, gn, ind, M/O) 021-355 6622

NORTH WEST

■ **Arcadia Comics**, 12 Clarence Arcade, Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7PT (next to Comet). Mon-Sat 10.00-5.15 (imp, back, ind, horror & sf mags and novels, Doctor Who, Trek, ltd merch, ltd gn, Brit, STO, ltd toys & figures, m/o: send wants list) 061 339 1816

■ **4th Dimension**, 31 Back Piccadilly, Piccadilly, Manchester. Wed - Sat 12.00 - 5.30 (back, sf & horror novels, Doctor Who, Star Trek, mags & more). 061 237 5996

■ **Imagination Station**, Unit 28, Portland Shopping Centre, Botchergate, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 1NT. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO)

■ **Odyssey 7**, 21 Hanging Ditch, Corn Exchange Buildings, Manchester M4 3ES. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror books, postcards, videos, badges, soundtracks, stills, LF filmbooks, Star Trek, Doctor Who.) 061 832 7044

■ **Odyssey 7**, Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9RN. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror novels, postcards, posters, badges, stills, LF film books, Trek, Dr Who, etc) 061 273 6666

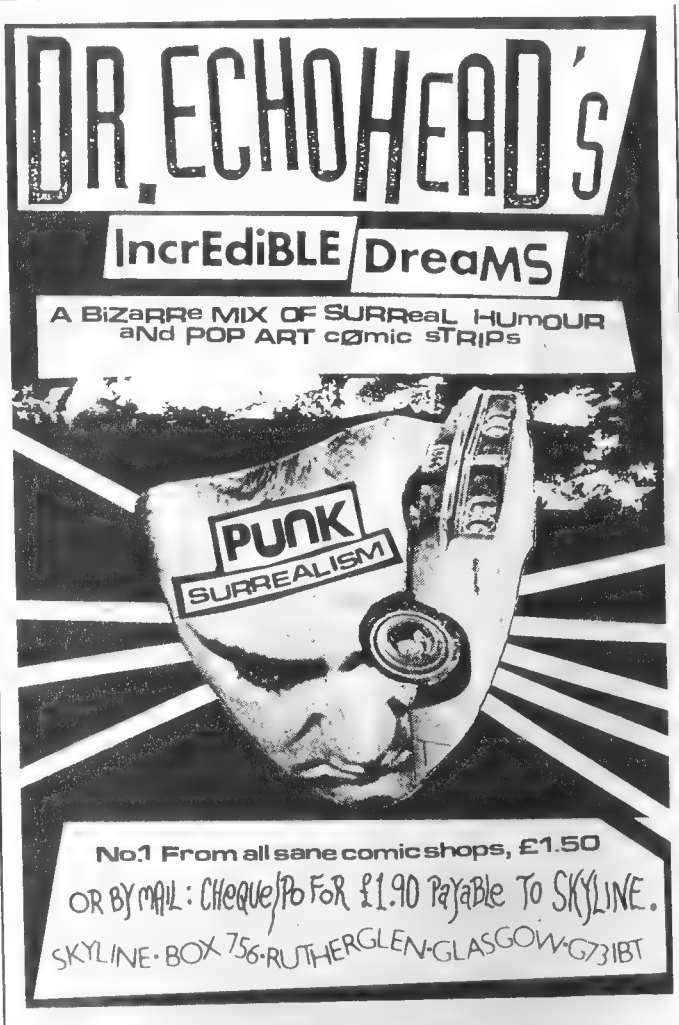
■ **Ogre Books**, 120 Picton Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, s-p, Brit) 051 733 0149

■ **Thunderbooks**, 332 Lytham Road, Blackpool. 10 - 5.30 Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat all year; Mon & Sun in season (closed Wed). Out of season open Wed, closed Sun + Mon. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, kits, limited gn, m/o, t-shirts, media collectors' items) 0253-48321

■ **Thunderbooks II**, 116 Friargate, Preston, Lancs. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, limited gn, m/o, kits, t-shirts, media collectors' items. 0772-204287

■ **The Time Tunnel**, 66 Edleston Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 7HD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm excl Weds. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, model kits, toys, action figures, Doctor Who, Star Trek)

■ **Worlds Apart**, Acorn Gallery, 16 Newington, (city centre) Liverpool L1 4ED. Mon - Sat (excl Wed) 10.00 - 6.00; Wed 12.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, fantasy film magazines) 051 707 0839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NORTH EAST

■ **Armadillo**, 16-22 Anlaby Road, Hull, North Humberside HU1 2PA. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00; late Thurs & Fri to 8.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, u/g, STO, videos, ppbks, heavy metal t-shirts. 0482 29787

■ **Books N' Comics**, Unit 15, Forbes Building, Linthorpe Road, Middlesborough, Cleveland TS1 4AW. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch ind, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, Fleetway, horror-sf- fantasy gns, film mags, Doctor Who, Star Trek, bags boxes & accessories) 0642 249 143

■ **Books N' Comics**, Unit 8, Regency West Mall, Princes Regent Street, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, Fleetway, horror/sf fantasy gn, film mags, Doctor Who, Star Trek, boxes bags & accessories) 0642 617 241

■ **Dells Comic & Book Stalls**, 129 Kirkgate Market, Bradford 1. Mon - Sat 9 - 5 excl Wed 9 - 3 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, horror masks, tv fantasy mags) 0274 390 541

■ **Happy Planet**, Rocks Off, 85 Westgate, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 2RD. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 5.30, Sat 9.30 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, s-p, Brit, STO) 0274 736 292

■ **Nostalgia & Comics**, 12 Matilda, off the Moor, Sheffield, Yorkshire. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 6.00; Sat 9.15 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, original art, model kits, sf & fantasy gns, horror magazines, newspaper strip compilations) 0742 769475

■ **Odyssey**, 6 Harrison Street, off Vicar Lane, Leeds LS1 6PA. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, sf - fantasy - horror bks, posters, postcards, badges, stills, Trek, Who, etc) 0532 426 325

■ **Sheffield Space Centre**, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield, Yorks. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00 excl Wed. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, m/o, STO, Trek items) 0742 758905

■ **Skyrack Book Service**, 51 The Superstore, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8LY. Yorkshire. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5pm; excl Weds: 9.30am - 1pm. (imp, back, ind, Brit, STO, SF hbk gn & magazines - many pulps, m/o) Establ 1965.

WEST COUNTRY

■ **Comics & CDs**, 143 Gloucester Road, Bristol. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 7.00. (imp, back, ind, gn, merch, STO, RPG, u/g, Brit, original art) 0272 244655

■ **Floppy Tongue Comics**, 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7QY. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0722 331107

■ **The Hobbit Hole**, 9 Commercial Rd, Gloucester, Glos. Mon 12.00 - 5.30; Tues - Sat 10.00 -5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, STO, T-shirts, film- tv mags and merch) 0452 309 533

■ **Joy's Comics**, 25 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1EZ. Mon - Sun 7.30 - 6. (imp back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o) 0305 269737 after 6pm 833304

■ **Kathies Comics**, 20 Market Avenue, Plymouth, PL1 1PH. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO) 0752 257800

■ **Wonderworld**, 803 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6AP. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, FRPG & miniatures, Games Workshop specialist stockist) 0202 422 964

■ **Wonderworld**, Unit 2, Bevois St, Southampton S01 1JD. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 0703 234815

ISLE OF WIGHT

■ **Astounding Comics**, 74 High Street, Newport, Isle of Wight P030 1BG. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, videos) 0983 825544

WALES

■ **Cardiff Fantasy Centre**, 1st Floor, Jacobs Market, West Canal Wharf, Cardiff. Sats only 9.30 - 5.00. (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, gn, computerised STO, videos; establ 12 yrs) 0222 563005

■ **Comix Shoppe**, 13 Shoppers Walk, Swansea SA1 3AY. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 5.00, Sat 10.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, u/g, film/tv magazines) 0792 642097

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 5 Duke Street, Cardiff. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 excl Thurs 10.00 - 6.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 0222 228885

■ **Journey into Mystery**, The Emporium, 34 Castle Arcade, Cardiff. Thurs - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, gn, STO)

■ **Negative Zone**, Provision Market Gallery, High Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 1DD. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, STO) 0633 222159

SCOTLAND

■ **AKA Books & Comics**, 25 Parnie Street, Glasgow G1 5RJ Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00pm; Sun 12.00 - 5.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn) 041 552 6692

■ **Black Hole Comic Shop**, The Market Hall, Wellgate Centre, Dundee. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, u/g, STO) 0382 21037

■ **City Centre Comics**, Argyle Shopping Centre, 28 Argyle Street, Glasgow G2 8AD. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00. (back issue specialists) 041-632 2786 (after 6pm)

■ **Dead Head Comics**, 44 Victoria Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2JW. Mon - Wed, Fri, Sat: 10 - 6.30; Thurs 11 - 7.30; Sunday 12 - 4. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 031 226 2774

■ **Earth 2 Comics** Candleriggs Market, 71-73 Albion St, Glasgow G1 1RB. Fri-Sat 9 - 5.30 Sun 10 - 5.30. (back issue specialists, gn, SF bks, ind, m/o) 041-647 6810 (after 6pm)

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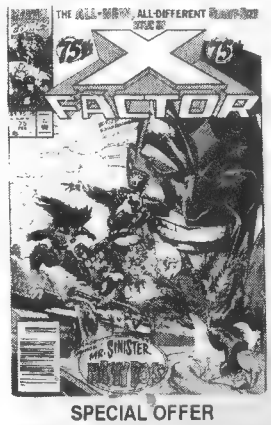

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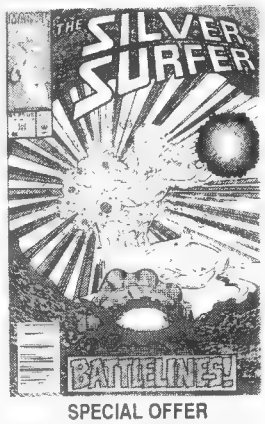

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It is the intention of ***Comics International*** *to help you, the comic reader, keep abreast of the entire range of titles currently available through direct sale specialist shops, good newsagents and mail order companies. Few retailers allow you to read all titles in stock before choosing your purchases; our reviews are designed to counter this and draw your attention to comics you might otherwise ignore. Naturally, this section should be of even greater benefit to readers who rely solely on mail order, as they only discover the quality of a new title after purchase.*

Review codes: *General competitive performance of a title is measured on a scale of 1 to 10. A specific issue's quality, as measured against previous issues: <- - -> to <+ + +>.*

Two ratings are used for the sake of detailed and fair coverage. The number following each review (on a scale of 1 to 10) is a quality comparison with other ***similar*** *titles currently being published. We make no attempt to compare* ***Love & Rockets*** *to* ***Batman****, but review each within the context of its own genre.*

The individual issue is also rated within the confines of its previous issues. Hence a comparatively dull title may get a low number but a high rating for the specific issue reviewed (ranging from <-> to <+ + +>) if there has been a notable improvement.

Reviews Editor: Sarah Bolesworth

Reviewing panel: Paul Birch, Les Chester, Jonathan Farmer, Peter Hayward-Brewer, Rol Hurst, Mike Kidson, Danny King, Skinny Melink, Peter C. Phillips and Derek G. Skinn.

DC COMICS

Action Comics 679 <+ -> (Stern & Guice + Rodier) Low-key battle issue with Hawk & Dove villainess Shellshock menacing Washington. Why is it that suddenly, the Superman titles appear to have no clear sense of direction? (PCP) 4

Adventures of Superman 492 <+ -> (Ordway & Karuse + Williams) Contrived and unconvincing plot has Pete Ross at the mercy of the Sons of Liberty until Agent Liberty and Superman come to his rescue. (PCP) 4

Animal Man 49 <+ -> (Veitch & Dillon) Brian Bolland's stunning covers continue to be the best thing about this title that never quite seems to be as good as it should be. Steve Dillon's smooth, powerful pencils are the second best thing. Veitch comes in third, but if he continues to tighten his plots he may pull up level with the others' standards yet. (SM) 7

Animal Man 51 (Preview) (Delano & Pugh) If you've been disappointed with **Animal Man** since Grant Morrison left, Jamie Delano may be the man to bring you back to the title. This is certainly darker than unusual, but the characterisation of the Baker family is spot on, the animal powers are back on display and there's a nice line in self-mocking humour. (RH) 9

Aquaman 8 <+> (McLaughlin & Hooper + Dvorak) A Russian assassin is hired to kill Aquaman but picks a day when Arthur is in a particularly bad, no-nonsense mood. Batman guest-stars. (PCP) 8

Arion the Immortal 1 (of 6; Kupperberg & Wilson + Acerno) Transplanting Arion from pre-cataclysmic Atlantis to modern day New York sounds like a lame duck idea But this Arion is old, crotchety and imbued with bad attitude - not to mention lustful thoughts about his unofficially adopted daughter. An oddball approach which is captivating from the off, and doesn't let go once you're hooked. Another un-hyped gem from Editor Jim Owsley's stable (PCP) 9

Armageddon Inferno 4 (of 4; Ostrander & Giordano + various) The Justice League America defeats Abraxis and is rewarded with a return to active duty in the modern-day DC Universe. A classy finale - but it's a shame that this creative team isn't pegged to chronicle the new **Justice League America** series. (PCP) 8

Batman: Penguin Triumphant 1 (Ostrander & Staton + Smith) The Penguin appears to go legit, but it's part of a scam to defraud and manipulate Wall Street. It becomes a headache for Alfred, in particular, when Bruce Wayne leases Wayne Manor to the fowl felon in an excellent fun romp. (PCP) 7

Batman Returns (O'Neil & Erwin + Garcia-Lopez) Catwoman and Penguin mix it in what is essentially an appetiser for the movie. As with the first movie adaptation, there is a fine line between high camp and bizarre insanity. Unfortunately, the comic highlights the camp without necessarily intending to do so. Best read *after* seeing the movie. (PCP) 7

Batman: Run, Riddler, Run 1 (of 3; Jones & Badger) A city-wide redevelopment causes problems for Batman and Bruce Wayne, with a supposedly reformed Riddler acting as security consultant. Social message saga hampered by a stodgy script and Badger's hard-to-decipher visuals. Give it a miss. (PCP) 2

Batman: Shadow of the Bat 1 (Grant & Breyfogle) Yet another Bat-title, this one complete with two posters, a bookmark, a pop-up Arkham Asylum, a comic and a little bat that flies out and sucks your blood! Well, not really that last one, but still a good deal, particularly as Grant gets right down to the nitty-gritty with an inmates-running-Arkham-Asylum-type tale. Truly dynamic art by Breyfogle, which is helped along by colourist Adrienne Roy's use of light, bright hues. A good debut, marred only by the tired old chestnut of the villain choosing not to lift the helpless Batman's mask to find out who he really is. I know I would, wouldn't you? (SM) 8

A tour of the refurbished Arkham Asylum is the backdrop for the insane activities of its Director, Jeremiah Arkham. Why Batman is also an inmate is left unstated, the teaser for issue two. (PCP) 9

Batman: Shadow of the Bat 2 (Grant & Breyfogle) *The Last Arkham, Part 2.* Batman kills a cop, in what is an obvious ruse to legitimise his incarnation in Arkham Asylum. Such predictability aside (and if the cop is dead, this reviewer hands in his *badge*), it is still top-drawer entertainment. Robin and Nightwing make cameo appearances. (PCP) 8

Batman 481 <+> (Moench & Aparo) Unusually routine melodrama from Doug Moench in which a disciple of Maxie Zeus suffers concussion and adopts the guise of vengeance-driven Harpy - with Maxie's gang and Batman as her targets. (PCP) 7

Batman 482 <+ -> (Moench & Aparo) Batman concludes his battle with The Harpy. So-so actioner, of little interest. (PCP) 4

Batwoman: Catwoman Defiant 1 (Milligan & Grindberg + Giordano) Beauty-hater kidnaps Catwoman, ostensibly to turn her into a whimpering wreck, though the real reason is reserved for a surprise denouement. The best interpretation of the character in quite some time, returning her to the guise of sexy jewel thief - a bad girl but not a killer (despite the **Action Comics** story to the contrary) - who loves to tease and frustrate the Dark Knight. (PCP) 9

Black Condor 2 <+ -> (Augustyn & Morales) A series of flashbacks introduces the villainous Sky Pirate, but it's difficult to reconcile the seriousness of the yarn with the villain's camp costume. This is only the second issue, so hopefully it's a temporary glitch. (PCP) 6

The Black Hood 6 <-> (Wheatley & Secrease + Willis) The new Black Hood (Hit Coffee?!) debuts and we get to see a fresh view of a major criminal organisation. The best scene, though, involves the Ex-Hood at his mother's hospital bedside - nicely played. Disappointing artwork lets this book down - where is Rick Burchett? (RH) 5

The Comet 10 <+> (Waid & West + Panosian, Albrecht) Giant fish muck monster ravages seaside town! The Comet, The Fly and Dolphus come to the rescue. Mark Waid's started to pull this book out of its early slump, and even the artwork is improving. (RH) 6

The Crusaders 1 (Waid, Augustyn & Morales + Hanna) Impact's new super-team premiers, inadvertently releasing a giant, super-ugly villain who battled the team's previous incarnation. Clever use of the new Black Hood saves this first issue, while the art is competent but unexciting. (RH) 6

Darkstars 1 (Friedman & Stroman + Hanna) Space cop is assigned to Earth to track down an alien narcotic despite doubts concerning his ability and state of mind. Even with X-Factor's Larry Stroman only illustrating the first three issues (newcomer Travis Charest takes over on #4), the strong script is more than capable of overcoming such a quick change in creative personnel. Impressive. (PCP) 8

The Demon 23 (Grant & Semeiks + Smith) The Demon tries to convince everyone (including the new Robin and his pal with the pointy ears) that he's a good guy, while battling another old Kirby creation, the Howler. Grant's script is witty and clever, while Semeik's art gets better each month. These guys will be missed when they leave the title. (RH) 8

Detective Annual 5 (Grant & Wagner, Mandrake + Magyar) Joker, Ventriloquist and Scarface form an alliance and an eclipsed Jim Gordon seeks vengeance on the Crown Prince for crippling his daughter. Grant & Wagner at their intense best. (PCP) 8

Detective Comics 646 <+ -> (Dixon & Lyle + Hanna) *Electric City, Part 3.* Deranged, electrically-powered criminal lays seige to Gotham City Police HQ in a run-of-the-mill cop drama that, if nothing else, does bring Jim Gordon and Sarah Essen closer together. (PCP) 5

Dr Fate 40 <+ -> (Messner-Loebs & Gross) Dr Fate considers whether to have a baby - by making her husband pregnant. Kent is shocked, while the bilious Lord of Order, Shat-Ru finds love (and sex) with a despised mortal! Another book that really doesn't deserve to be cancelled. (RH) 9

Dr Fate 41 <+ -> (Loebs & Gross) In this final issue, artist Peter Gross outdoes himself, and Loebs has brought things to a satisfactory end, although aficianados will certainly miss the unique approach he briefly brought to this title. (SM) 8

Doom Force Special 1 (Morrison & various) This **Doom Patrol** spin-off is obviously intended to be humorous, but fails because of the puerile scripting and some "big name" artists combining to do a Rob Liefeld "appreciation". It adds up to utter pap - and a waste of the tree they used to produce it. (PCP) 0

Doom Patrol 55 <++> (Morrison & Case + Woch) Doom Patrol finally finds its lost direction in what is the best issue for a long time. Ironically, the team itself is falling apart as Rebis leaves, Crazy Jane goes AWOL to hunt the father who abused her as a child and Josh is shot by a mystery assailant. (RH) 8

Doom Patrol 56 <+ -> (Morrison & Case) Morrison apparently can't shed the pretension, but when he keeps it to a minimum, he can still put together a good, strong story, nicely rendered by underrated artist Case. Brilliant Bisley cover, too. (SM) 8

Doom Patrol 57 <++> (Morrison & Case + Woch) Probably Grant Morrison's best story since leaving **Animal Man**, featuring the secret origin of the team, its betrayal by one of its founding members and a shock ending that really *does* shock... and it will probably make you laugh, too, at the irony of it all... (RH) 9

Eclipso: The Darkness Within 1 (Giffen & Fleming, Sears, Elliot + Pennington) The Eclipso revamp begins in the yearly DC Annuals multi-parters, with everything already known about the villain turned upside down... While it is the Sears artwork that carries the dynamics, if every episode is as good as this, it promises to be a real *bumpy* ride. Valor, Creeper and Superman guest-star. (PCP) 10

Flash 66 <+ -> (Waid & Collins + Richardson) Flash and Aquaman team up in a tired underwater frolic. (PCP) 4

Green Arrow 63 <+ -> (Grell & Hoberg) Perhaps Grell needs a break, as the cliches have been coming hard and heavy lately, in this normally challenging read. (SM) 6

Green Lantern Annual 1 (G. Jones & A. Smith + Beatty) Continuation of the Eclipso story-line, in which Hal, Carol and Guy fight their personal demons, but still get converted to Eclipso's cause. Not the best script in the series so far, with visuals that are adequate, but not much else. (PCP) 5

Green Lantern: Mosiac 1 (Jones & Hamner + Panosian) Mixing **Green Lantern** with **Doom Patrol**, Jones brings us the strangest straight super-hero book in a while. Original and interesting in places, though I doubt it will be to everyone's taste... Artist Cully Hamner is another from the Mignola school and manages to maintain visual variety. (RH) 7

Green Lantern: Mosaic 2 <+> (Jones & Hamner + Panosian) Ch'p returns for one final fling as Green Lantern. It's forests-worth-of-Kleenex time, though the Ch'p haters will *love* it... (PCP) 7

Guy Gardner Reborn 1 (of 3;) Ousted from the Green Lantern Corp, Guy

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becomes a Punisher/ Lobo clone in a failed attempt to find new purpose to his life. It promised to be really awful, but ends up reading better than it looks. (PCP) **6**

The Hacker Files 1 (Shiner & Sutton) Renegade computer ace hired to pull the government's fat out of the fire. Likeable enough, with impressive if uneven art from Sutton, buoyed up by fine computer colouring, naturally. (SM) **8**

Hammerlocke 1 (of 9; Joyner & Sprouse + Wilson) More fiction than science in this futuristic saga - told in flashbacks - concerning the cyborg creator of an elevator to the stars and the various political organisations vying for control. Well-written, but unlikely to attract a wide audience. (PCP) **6**

Hawkworld 25 <+ -> (Ostrander & Nolan + Bryant) Katar, Shayera and various dissidents sever ties with Thanagar and settle down on Earth. Anti-climactic after what's just happened, and it's made worse by the two pinioned paladins adopting the most awfully designed new costumes you could possibly imagine. (PCP) **3**

Heliblazer 55 <+> (Ennis & Simpson) One of Ennis's better storylines comes to a shrieking climax, and I dare say that even artist Simpson is starting to smooth out the rough edges. (SM) **8**

Heliblazer 56 <+ -> (Ennis & Lloyd) Routine Constantine yarn, not bad, but Ennis has yet to do anything inspired with this title, like Jamie Delano's earlier work. It's always nice to see David Lloyd, though he seems to have slanted his style towards that of Will Simpson's, which is a bad enough example to begin with

Jaguar Annual 1 (various) Maria investigates a murder in an above average crime melodrama (Loebs & Kollins + Pepoy), and The Shield (Blaustein & Allen + Solotoff) appears in a best forgotten flashback. The highlight is an 1870s based Black Hood episode (Burchett & Secrease + Burchett) which allows the narrative to form the basis for a famous Western radio-TV-movie-comic-book hero currently residing in limbo. (PCP) **5**

The Jaguar 9 <+ -> (Messner-Loebs & Wojtkiewicz) Jaguar battles the eclipsed Shield, not realising that her costume has been stolen by her glory-seeking room-mate Tracy, with, as they say in the sitcoms, hilarious consequences. Nice, clean artwork and Bill Messner-Loebs' whimsical script make this above-average Impact fare. (RH) **7**

Justice League America 64 <+> (Jurgens & Jurgens + Burchett) Another superb yarn continuing the Starbreaker story-line, and which even manages to tile in with pre-**Crisis on Infinite Earths** (mini-series) continuity. (PCP) **8**

Justice Society of America 1 (Strazewski & Parobeck + Wilson) Out of Limbo heroes seek retirement until boredom - and nuclear terrorists - spur Flash and Green Lantern back into costume. Minor moments of interest, but Strazewski's less than fertile imagination and ngor mortis makes for so-so entertainment. Superman guests, as do Jason (Fly) Troy and his grandfather - despite the non-connected DC/Impact Universes. (PCP) **4**

Legends of the Dark Knight 30 <+> (Wagner & various) The *Faces* trilogy culminates with some neat about-faces that subvert the comics tradition of equating freaks with monsters. Deeper and darker than the norm. (AW) **8**

Legends of the Dark Knight 31 <-> (Hudnall & Anderson) Alias Batman *Indiana Jones*-style: Alfred is seized by Mexican bandits, only to be rescued by Bwana Bats Stylish nonsense. (AW) **6**

Legends of the Dark Knight 33 <+> (Robinson & Sale) *Blades, Part 2.* Batman continues his pursuit of Mr Lime, and the Cavalier shows his true colours. Excellent. (PCP) **7**

Legends of the Dark Knight 34 <+> (Robinson & Sale) *Blades, Part 3.* Poignant and violent conclusion that gives the Cavalier's motives a more noble edge, and helps to lift the story-line above a cliched norm. (PCP) **9**

Legends of the Dark Knight 35 <+> (B. Hampton & Kneece + B. Hampton) *Destiny, Part 1.* Descendant of the Viking Prince teams up with Batman when Corporate thugs threaten his Norwegian Fjord. Cue flashback and a medieval encounter between the original Viking Prince and a reclusive Bat Man. Different, to say the least, but where's Carter Nichols when you need him... ? (PCP) **8**

Legend of the Shield 11 <+> (Miehm & Waid) When this book began, it was perhaps the most disappointing of the Impact line. It has, however, improved with each issue, and it remains the only Impact title with a regular creative team, consistently producing enjoyable super-hero tales. Old fashioned, but fun, nonetheless. (RH) **7**

Legion of Super-Heroes Annual 3 (Gordon & Phillips + various) The all-new feral Timber Wolf is transported back to the 20th century in a prelude to the forthcoming mini-series. Could this be the hit series DC have been looking for? It offers little new but the blood 'n' guts fans will love it. Lightning Lad (Bierbaum & Peterson + Hanna) occupies the second half of the book, revealing a secret that fans will either love or hate. For once, though, an annual with major plot developments. (PCP) **9**

Legion of Super-Heroes 31 <+ -> (Giffen, T. & M. Bierbaum & Doran. Gordon & Swan + Kesel) Heartbreaker Shvaughn Erin, the lovely Science Police Officer has a secret: she's really a man. Says a lot for SP security screening in this lame duck episode that serves little purpose other than to further alienate and dismay hardcore **Legion of Super-Heroes** fans. (PCP) **5**

Lobo's Back 2 (of 4; Giffen & Grant + Bisley) Lobo dies - plays havoc in the afterlife - and is sent back to Earth as a woman. Predictable, over-the-top humour and violence, without the creators looking for anything really new to do with the character. (PCP) **5**

Martian Manhunter: American Secrets 1 (of 3; G. Jones & Barreto) '50s era New York homicide leads Detective John Jones to a bizarre TV quiz show. Barreto's visuals evoke the period with consummate ease, ably assisted by Jones' straight-to-the-point script. Superb is a poor superlative. (PCP) **8**

Ms Tree Special 9 (Collins & Beatty) Baby Melodie Tree is kidnapped, providing bait for a death-trap. It's the usual mix of violent detective fiction that is the series' hallmark. (PCP) **8**

New Titans 87 <+> (L. Simonson & various) Yet another "jam" issue of episodic vignettes as efforts to keep this book on schedule continue to be a source of frustration for readers and creators alike. Lots of little sub-plots begin, or continue, to bubble, making it a key issue for completists. (PCP) **8**

Peter Cannon: Thunderbolt 1 (Collins & Collins + Marzan) Self-doubting super-hero is forced out of retirement when eco-terrorists threaten a London museum exhibition. Remains true to the Carlton Comics incarnation, but really it's little more than routine super-melodrama, with generic

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rent-'em-by-the dozen supporting players Green Lantern - Hal Jordan guests. (PCP) 4

Ray 5 <+> (of 6; Harris & Quesada + Nichols) A series that continues to amaze, with even more revelations explaining the Ray's reasons for existing. Cameo appearance by the Freedom Fighters adds to the fun, in what is without doubt the best un-hyped series to debut this year. A regular monthly must be on the cards, but only if the creative team can be kept intact. (PCP) 9

Sandman 39 <+ -> (Gaiman & Watkiss) Talky, tight, self-contained, strong - the sort of thing that writer Gaiman excels at, ably drawn by Watkiss. Colourist Daniel Vozzo deserves a special mention for his subtle but sophisticated use of background colour, and there's a striking (uncredited) cover, to boot. (SM) 8

<+ -> Marco Polo, lost in the desert, finds himself dreaming, and his dreams are populated with characters from his past and future in what, from Gaiman, is a tired effort lacking purpose or sparkle.

<- -> Three travellers meet in a desert. A nice story with, at first glance, uncomplimentary art... until the Master of Ceremonies appears to a now lone Marco Polo. Then, the story suddenly takes off, with all resolved on a journey. (DK) 8

Sandman 40 <+ -> (Gaiman & Thompson) Surely this is not the same atrociously bad Jill Thompson who's done all those awful **Wonder Woman** issues?! Her work here, although weak in places, is miles better than anything she's ever done, perhaps because she's got some prime material to inspire her. Why - she can even draw babies realistically (and I can see she's sneaked a few bits past the censors!). Gaiman is so good at single-issue stories, that I dread the new extended story-line starting next issue. And the covers - whoever they're by - are astoundingly good, startlingly original. (SM) 10

Shade 25 <+ -> (Milligan & Bachalo) Chris Bachalo is, I think, the best artist working in comics today, and, like writer Milligan, he continues to grow, surprise and challenge. This is the top of the heap for me of the so-called "mature" - "sophisticated" mainstream comics, consistently better than Sandman, Hellblazer, and Swamp Thing at their best. (SM) 10

Suicide Squad 65 <+ -> (Ostrander & Yale + Isherwood, Campanella) More strong characterisation and witty dialogue as the Squad fight their final battle in Diabloverde. This book deserved more promotion from DC, and better critical reactions than it got from reviewers as a whole. (RH) 9

Superman Annual 4 (Vado & Benefiel + Scott) Possessed by an Eclipso diamond, Lois Lane goes one-on-one with the Man of Steel in a passable, but largely unsatisfactory slug-fest issue. The relatively unknown creative team struggles with the material, and this again emphasises DC's lacklustre approach to any major comics "event". (PCP) 5

Superman: The Man of Steel Annual 1 (Fleming & Wozniak + Vancata) Creeper, Starman and Rampage all fall under the spell of Eclipso, despite Superman's best efforts. Not quite as satisfying as the opening chapter (Wozniak is no Bart Sears), although it's evident from this chapter that every episode is going to be a vital cog in the overall storyline. No missing odd episodes this year! Phantom Lady also makes a guest appearance. (PCP) 7

Superman: The Man of Steel 13 <+ -> (L. Simonson & Bogdanove + Janke) Superman finally meets Cerberus in a plot lifted from countless '50s B-movie groaners, creakers and wheezers. (PCP) 3

Superman: The Man of Steel 14 <-> (L. Simonson & Bogdanove + Janke) A vampire stalks Metropolis, prompting Jimmy Olsen to play Rambo - with a little help from the Boy Wonder. Played-out plot stumbles and then dies, through lack of interest. (PCP) 3

Superman 69 <+ -> (Jurgens & Krause + Williams) Mediocre conspiracy plot has Pete Ross and Agent Liberty involved in a Senate assassination. Dull artwork fails to evoke any mood whatsoever. (PCP) 4

Swamp Thing 121 <+ -> (Collins & Eaton) Writer Collins has turned this title around with her finely crafted stories, prompting artist Eaton to rise to the occasion. (SM) 9

MARVEL COMICS

Amazing Spider-Man 363 <+> (Michelinie & Bagley + Emberlin) The mystery builds as Peter Parker's parents head back to New York City while the unsuspecting Mr P battles the Shocker, with Aunt May caught in the middle. Despite one of those grating comic-book coincidences wherein Pete spends much of the next issue thinking about his parents - thereby preparing him for next issue's shock ending, this an okay, if mediocre time-filler. (RH) 6

Amazing Spider-Man 365 <+ -> (Michelinie & Bagley and various) In the end, it's up to the punter if he wants to pay three times the price for a hologram cover, pretty as it is, though I'd venture a guess that most would prefer to spend their money on three separate comics, given the choice. Inside, the feature story's all right, even if you have read it half a dozen times before, but I do not buy the idea that Peter Parker's parents are still alive, or that, as is rumoured, they've been on a secret mission all these years - these are new heights of ludicrousness, even for Marvel, and require a massive suspension of disbelief. Pass the barf bag. The three filler stories are all pretty good, especially the one by Gwen Stacey, though it seems to be going a bit too far to dedicate the story to her memory - she wasn't real - honest, guys! Stan Lee and Steve Ditko might have been more deserving of a dedication, especially as they are both real *and* alive. (SM) 7

Avengers 349 (Harras & Epting) Artist Epting's varied perspectives, and brisk, breezy panels are a welcome return to the unpretentious Marvel style of the late '60s and '70s, while writer Harras has actually made this tired team title interesting again. (SM) 8

Captain America 401 <+ -> (Gruenwald & Levins) Cap has a crisis of conscience after the galactic storm. Gruenwald straightens out in exemplary fashion the tangled and contradictory mess that various writers have make out of the Avengers' leader's relations with his team-mates over the years. Shame about the artwork, though. (AW) 7

Conan 258 <+ -> (Thomas & Docherty)

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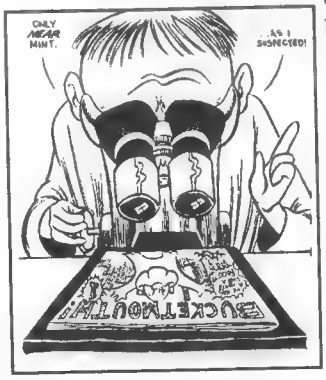

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Congratulations to Thomas for making this once great title readable - even exciting, again. But curiously enough he's fallen far short of the high standards of story-telling that he set himself on his ground-breaking initial run on Conan. Docherty seems to improve with every issue, though he still hasn't found a completely compatible inker. (SM) 7

Cops: The Job 2 <+ -> (Hama & Jusko + Harris) Grim, realistic cop drama continues to hit hard. (SM) 8

Daredevil Annual 8 (Wright & various) The continuation of the *System Bytes* annuals crossover sees Daredevil dealing with a gunman with a difference, while Deathlok does, well, not an awful lot against a rampaging computer virus. Clean, anonymous artwork, and a couple of filler stories that don't add up to much - not so much The Man Without Fear as The Man Without Character... (AW) 3

Daredevil 305 <+> (Chichester & McDaniel) Someone is stealing human organs from live victims, so Daredevil uses Peter Parker as bait, while elsewhere in the forest, the vultures gather for the Kingpin's spoils. Writer Chichester's Hornhead is near-definitive, while he captures a side to Spider-Man that's not been seen in years. (AW) 7

Daredevil 306 <+ -> (Chichester & McDaniel) Daredevil and Spider-Man cut short the Surgeon General's gruesome career. Nice to see New York's finest paired up to such good effect, but the artwork won't win any prizes. (AW) 7

<- +> The conclusion of the Surgeon General saga - an awful story of black-market offal. Guest-starring Spider-Man. It is surely obvious by now that Daredevil is going through a rough patch! (DK) 6

Excalibur Special Edition: XX Crossing (Lobdell & various) Excalibur and the X-Men are flung together in a continuity-defying time-travel plot. Ubiquitous scripter Lobdell and a legion of artists hatch a criss-cross turkey. (AW) 2

Hulk 395 <+ -> (David & Keown) When they're hot... arguably Marvel's best ongoing title now; David strikes the right balance between levity, character, action and drama, while artist Keown's bold, razor-sharp pencils are far superior to any number of the current crop of flash-in-the-pan hot-shots. (SM) 9

<++> The Hulk returns to Vegas in his old guise as Mr Fixit and gets involved in a shoot-out with Frank Castle, a.k.a. The Punisher. Great to see Castle hopelessly outclassed - and taken out by the Hulk's *little finger*! (RH) 10

Hulk 396 <+ -> (David & Keown) With the premature departure of Jim Lee, there's no question that Dale Keown's sharp, graceful, sly and fluid pencils are Marvel's finest, and they're the perfect compliment to Peter David's wisecracking Hulk (though he's starting to sound a bit like Spider-Man). This is still Marvel's consistently best title, not the least because the creators have remembered that comics are meant to be fun... (SM) 9

Groo the Wanderer 89 <+ -> (Aragones & Evanier) Chakaal, the love of Groo's life (much to her sorrow) returns in this blistering satire on religion. Consistently funny, Aragones is at his best when dealing with contemporary social issues in this off-beat context. (RH) 8

Groo the Wanderer 91 <+ -> (Epic imprint; Evanier & Aragones) Will the debut of a super-hero team attract new readers? Does Groo need them? Indeed, does Groo really care, anyway? At the end of the day, our hero is more interested in pitting his wits in the gladiatorial arena alongside Odoman

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the Invincible. More wonderfully farcical comedy, using the same old jokes that never seem to grow stale. (DK) 10

The Infinity War 2 <++> (Starlin & Lim + Milgrom) Already losing direction, this issue culminates in a giant super-hero slug-fest of pointless proportions. Starlin has the right ideas, but he often takes the easy way out, and the result is just another cross-over. (RH) 4

Namor 27-28 <-> (Byrne, Cavalieri & Jae Lee) Namor continues to play the abominable woodsman and learns that pretty faces are not necessarily to be trusted. Newcomer Jae Lee's trendy renderings also don't tell the whole story, with his faces in particular being hard to tell apart. A title in decline. (AW) 4

Namor 28 <-> (Byrne & Jae Lee + Albrecht) Jae Lee works his way through his artistic influences, going from Kevin Nowlan to Jim Lee to Simon Bisley - and beyond - in one issue. When he finally settles down and finds his own style, he will be good. Meanwhile, John Byrne does another experimental issue, telling the entire story (flashbacks included) without any speech. The result is a little prosaic... (RH) 5

Quasar 34 <- -> (Gruenwald & Tyler + Williams) Further proof that the *Galactic Storm* actually takes place in a tea-cup. Gruenwald's **Quasar** is an interesting book, hampered by continual cross-overs and tie-ins. This month, it's outer space cat-fight time between Binary and Her. Regular artist Greg Capullo is nowhere in sight, either... (RH) 3

She-Hulk 40 <+ -> (Byrne) The hills are alive, so Jen and the newly corpulent Weezi take the flying flivver to the Star Stop Cafe. The comic that suspends your intelligence, reinforces your disbelief, and messes with your critical faculties. Worth every penny. (AW) 8

She-Hulk 41 <+ -> (Byrne) All hills break loose in outer space. Deft daftness, self-parody and slick pics. Unmissable punnishment. (AW) 8

Sleepwalker 12 <+> (Budiansky & Qesada + Bair) The hidden gem amongst Marvel's current line-up. Playing on what made Marvel successful in the '60s, Budiansky and co. have created a likeable hero - who doesn't kill people - with an interesting support cast. Gorgeous guest visuals from Quesada, too. (RH) 7

Spectacular Spider-Man 190 <+ -> (DeMatteis & Buscema) The creators continue their Spider renaissance, turning their attention to the Rhino, fleshing out a character who, up to now, has been pretty two-dimensional. Meanwhile, Harry Osborne meets his psychiatrist. Beautiful artwork from old pro Buscema. (RH) 9

Spider-Man 24 <- -> (Mackie & Alexander + Pepoy) Lacklustre *Infinity War* cross-over that has Spider-Man, his doppelganger, the Hobgoblin and the Demogoblin involved in a pointless battle. The art is particularly amateurish and the whole thing reeks of a rushed fill-in. (RH) 2

Web of Spider-Man 90 <+> (Mackie & Savuik + Delarosa) 30th anniversary special, take two. Another worthless hologram masquerades as a cover over a rather nostalgic, and slightly pointless battle with Mysterio. Sold out extra quick, but this issue will probably prove the least popular of the anniversary specials, if anyone dares to open the sealed plastic bag it comes in and actually *read* the thing! (RH) 6

INDEPENDENTS

Animal Confidential (Dark Horse; various) Readable comic strips and text stories, but failing to substantiate any unifying motive or theme: is it **Beautiful Stories for Ugly Children,** part 2, or a castrated version of the Air Pirates' work? (PB) 5

Archer & Armstrong 0 (Valiant; Shooter, Layton & Windsor-Smith) A worldly-wise reprobate latches on to a gullible temple graduate in this origin issue that misses an origin (Armstrong's). One of Valiant's better concepts. (AW) 6

Archer & Armstrong 1 <+> (Valiant; Shooter, Layton & Windsor-Smith) Transported to a "lost land outside of the normal universe" along with all the other Valiant heroes, Archer is arrested and Armstrong finds a new meaning in the term "acid rain". Luscious visuals (including a Frank Miller cover) enhance a mildly diverting tableau. (AW) 7

<-> Archer and Armstrong enter Unity at the request of Aram's brother, the Eternal Warrior. But rather than getting involved in the fight, they split up to teach wisdom and get drunk, respectively. Perhaps the best of the Valiant line so far, for the way it avoids super-hero cliches and finds its own direction. Recommended. (RH) 8

Baseball Comics <+ -> (Kitchen Sink; various) This would probably be incomprehensible to anyone unfamiliar with the game (alas, most UK comics readers), but the Will Eisner story alone is worth the cover price. (SM) 8

Cerebus the Aardvark 157 <- +> (Aardvark Vanaheim; Sim & Gerhard) *Mind Game VI.* Grim and determined as ever, Cerebus strains to get to the Eight Sphere and beyond - in order to achieve his victory over Sventeus Po. His rise is effectively depicted with the use of vertically-stretched panels, and promises a classic end-game. The editorial has mellowed of late, due to the US tour promotion, and Dave is again printing replies to readers' letters. (DK) 9

Eternal Warrior 1 (Valiant; Shooter & Dixon) Poorly-paced origin tale of yet another hero from antiquity from Valiant, who appears just in time for the second segment of the *Unity* cross-over. Don Heck-style artwork lends a Biblical epic feel, but hark! Who dares whisper *Secret Wars*? (AW) 4

Eternal Warrior 2 <-> (Valiant; Shooter & Dixon) Unity's second month begins with two Eternal Warriors from different times teaming up in an attempt to save Geoff the Geomancer. If you're becoming jaded with cross-overs, this one does offer more characterisation (and fewer fight scenes) than most, but I'm still looking forward to seeing Eternal Warrior strike out on his own when it's all over. (RH) 6

Femforce Up Close 1 (AC; Heike & Roberts + Heike) Government forces, convinced that Synn is a menace, seek to return her to the LSD facility. Nightveil objects - providing an opportunity to delve into Synn's tragic background. Script, art and colours all mesh perfectly, giving all-round value for money. (PCP) 10

Harbinger 6 <++> (Valiant; Shooter & Lapham + Mayo) One of the Harbinger kids

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dies in a particularly convincing and quite touching battle with Harada's men. Shooter plays this book like the original **X-Men**, as if Lee and Kirby had been doing it today - and for the most part, he's successful. The art, though, is a little lightweight and sketchy. (RH) 8

Harbinger 7 <-> (Valiant; Shooter & Lapham + Mayo) Unity beckons for the Harbinger kids as an excuse to hurry through Kris's pregnancy rather than waiting nine months in the real world. As with many of the Valiant heroes, these kids are reluctant to save the world and more interested in sorting out their own problems. There's a great Jack Kirby gag, and another wonderful Miller cover. (RH) 7

Hard Boiled 3 <+ -> (Dark Horse; Miller & Darrow) This long-overdue epilogue to the gory trilogy is not so much Miller-time as a vehicle for Darrow's grosseries. It's a simple tale, which returns anti-hero Nixon to blissful self-ignorance. Hardly a stretch for the reader *or* the writer, it's a commonplace French-style graphic album flying an American flag of convenience. (AW) 6

Joe Matt's Peep Show 2 <+ -> (Drawn & Quarterly; Matt) Perhaps the best of the current crop of confessional slice-of-life independents, whose creators aren't afraid to let us know what pathetic jerks and bastards they are (see **Adventures on the Fringe**). But you can't help but like them for it. Makes your standard super-hero schlock look like, well, kids' stuff. (SM) 10

Love & Rockets 38 <- +> (Fantagraphics; Hernandez brothers, Beto) This issue Kris and Maricela strike an immediate rapport; in Poison River X Peter personally deals with his father's disposal and Luba goes home. Wigwambam VI and VII has an effective final page. (DK) 9

Miracleman Apocrypha 3 <+ -> (Eclipse; various) Nice Kirby homage cover and Gebbie end piece, but a poor last issue without a satisfactory conclusion. (PB) 3

Next Men 2 <+ -> (Dark Horse; Byrne) First off, let me say that John Byrne really is a hero of mine, and this is beautifully drawn, with enough mystery, intrigue and excitement to please *any* member of the Byrne fan club... and perhaps a few non-believers, too. (RH) 9

Next Men 4 <+ -> (Dark Horse; Byrne) Reader-friendly art compensates for a comic that thus far promises more than it has delivered. (SM) 7

<- +> For many fans of John Byrne's artwork, this book really is a godsend, with high-quality paper and printing and the colouring it's always deserved. The story is progressing at a nice pace, too. Good, strong super-hero stuff from the master of the genre. (RH) 8

Ranma 1/2 #1 (Viz, Takahashi) Cross-gender jokey humour - Japanese style - with a father who turns into a giant panda and his son who switches from male to female form when wet. An amusing diversion. (PCP) 7

Real Stuff 6 <++> (Fantagraphics; Eichhorn & various) Dennis Eichhorn's autobiographical vignettes have suffered in the past from self-indulgence, but less so here, where he is abetted by some of the best "alternative" comics artists in the business, including the delightful Julie Doucet, Alice Kaminsky-Crumb and Seth and Chester Brown. (SM) 8

<+ -> Not so engrossing as previous outings, with *Three in a Bed, Part 2* failing to say more than Part 1! Maintains its purchase value due to the diversity of cartoonists' work within. (PB) 6

Shadowman 3 <- -> (Valiant; Perozich & Moretti + Barnett) Slightly disappointing after the first two issues, this is a pretty straightforward tale of good v bad guy, with a slight twist in that the Shadowman is a little darker than your average good guy. Nice art, but less melodrama and more characterisation would be appreciated. (RH) 5

Shadowman 4 <+> (Valiant; Shooter & Perozich, Lapham + Ryder) Shadowman stumbles into Unity, finding himself in the midst of a clash between Solar and the Mothergod. Unfortunately, he picks the wrong side and ends up being fried... Continuity wise, Unity is proving such a spectacular undertaking, particularly as each book retains much of its own tone despite crossing over into other books in the series. (RH) 7

Solar, Man of the Atom 10 <+> (Valiant; Shooter & Perlin, Windsor-Smith) The highlight is again the conclusion of Barry Windsor-Smith's origin saga, yet the other story, featuring new Valiant hero, The Eternal Warrior - is quite interesting. Very weird, but strangely effective cover. (RH) 7

Solar, Man of the Atom 11 <- +> (Valiant; Shooter & Perlin + Drake) The origin of the Mothergod is told as Solar dies. Intelligent super-hero-SF stuff that should put Valiant firmly on the map. (RH) 7

Space Usagi 1 (of 3; Mirage; Sakai) The rabbit samurai of feudal Japan becomes a rabbit samurai in futuristic feudal Japan. Actually, it's a descendant of the Fantagraphics hero taking centre stage to protect his Lord's son from rival clan enemies. The mix of genres is accomplished with some finesse, as one would expect from Stan Sakai, but, for an odd reason, the involvement of "funny animals" seems more noticeable. (PCP) 7

Spawn 1 (Image; McFarlane) A dead man returns to life, adopts a secret identity, and, although suffering from amnesia, seeks out criminals and his lost wife. Typical fare, targeting the brain-dead '90s comics fans. Whatever happened to story-telling...? (PCP) 4

Unity 0 (Valiant: Shooter & Windsor-Smith) An outgrowth of the **Solar, Man of the Atom** story-line, the inaugural chapter of Valiant's cross-title epic pits the whole heroic ensemble against a threat to all reality amid a dinosaur-laden SF setting. For the first time in Jim Shooter's ersatz House of Ideas, there is a real sense of a new comics universe being born. All this, plus pictures from one of Britain's finest story-tellers. (AW) 8

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(Fantagraphics; LaBan) More troubled relationships (see **Peep Show**), and all too human characters, superbly drawn by LaBan - even if his influences are showing. Recommended to anyone who's getting tired of the mindless super-hero pap that the big two are churning out these days. (SM) 10

X-O Manowar 5 <+> (Valiant; Shooter & Leeke + Ryder) X-O meets an intelligent stripper, but doesn't realise that his best friend may be betraying him. Getting better as it progresses, but Leeke's art is a little too derivative of Windsor-Smith. (RH) 7

X-O Manowar 6 <+> (Valiant: Layton & Ditko, Moretti) Aric the Visigoth in combat against another X-O suit proves he is a fearsome warrior even without his armour. Visually, this book is as dull as they come, but the quality of the writing has gone up a notch. (AW) 2

X-O Manowar 7 <+ -> (Layton & Leeke + Ryder) Aric, the hero of this book, is a sort of cross between Groo and Robocop. It's such a bizarre combination that it manages to catch even the most cynical comic-book readers out, giving a fresh perspective on the hero ideal and successfully marrying pre-history with the space age. (RH) 8

Youngblood 1 (Image; Liefeld) The first Image comic features two teams which are unfortunately barely disguised X-clones (Marvel are rumoured to be talking to their lawyers) that add nothing to the genre and cash in on another company's success. Creative? No. Commercial? Probably. Recommended? For Liefeld completists only. (AW) 4

Young Indiana Jones Chronicles 3 <++> (Dark Horse; Barry & Morrow) Gray Morrow does his best art job in years on this third chapter of the Dark Horse adaptation of George Lucas's further adventures of the bloke who's got a phobia about snakes... Fun and entertaining in places - but for Indie-files, only! (RH) 6

UK TITLES

Battle Holiday Special (various) Great anti-authoritarian war stories spoilt by the ludicrous inclusion of two *Captain Hurricane* strips, and a price tag of £1.10 for reprints!? (PB) 6

Thunderbirds Holiday Special (Fleetway; Fennell & Bellamy) Forsaking the multi-story approach of the regular comic, this special justifies its name with 32 pages of mainly Bellamy art depicting the heroes tackling solar flares. Well thought-out traditional fare, and excellent value at £1.25, despite the last six pages being out of sequence. (AW) 8

Toxic Crusaders 1 (various) A decent cover and poster (David Pugh?) fail to make up for the lack of guts in the comic. Anyone remember that First Issue Special with *The Outsiders* by Joe Simon? Well, this is incredibly similar! (PB) 2

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Captain Dolphin 2 (Kidson; 75p from Ralph Kidson, 3 Langridges Close, Newick, East Sussex BN8 4LZ) A charming, deadpan parody of super-heroics and English manners. At first glance, it looks as if it's drawn by a five-year-old; Kidson (no relation!) claims that he can't really draw. In fact, he's doing something extraordinarily difficult; conveying a maximum of humorous expression with a minimum of ink. In so doing, he displays an understanding of the gestural language of comics that far outstrips anything of which the Image brat-packers appear to be capable. Buy it, and be prepared to laugh your head off. (MK) 7

CIA 16 (DMG; anthology; 90p from DMG, Nottingham Community Arts, 39 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green, Nottingham NG7 6BE) I've heard that CIA is likely to fold because of funding problems; it would be a shame to see one of the more long-running small press mags disappear, so give them your support. Having said that, this *Women's Own* makes a tough and salutary read for men, so beware! Packed with provocative strips and articles. (MK) 5

Cool Cheese 1 (Cheese; Cheese; £1.25 from the London Cartoon Centre, 14 Conlan Street, London W10 5AR) A remarkable collection of dream-like fantasies on a theme of everyday snack foods! Although a few of Cheese's strips are laid out in panel format, most of them are designed within ornamental patterns which fill whole pages and are embellished in a graffiti artist's style. Although slightly reminiscent of Fiona Smyth's work for Vortex, **Cool Cheese** is more substantial, more inventive and tells stories which, for all their oddness, carry a deeper and more comprehensible meaning. Perfect reading for a hot summer's day. (MK) 7

Exit 1 (Taxi; Kanan; £1.50 from Taxi Comics, 19 Cornhill, Allestree, Derby DE3 2CG) A smartly-produced debut which shows off a stunning artistic technique: Kanan rarely uses lines, opting instead for an impressionistic haze of cross-hatching, black shadows and glaring white contrasts which aptly convey the shimmering heat of a midsummer setting. The story mixes an account of the transition from adolescence to adulthood with a mystery plot - unfortunately it's let down by an extraordinarily pretentious script. (MK) 6

The Hardcore 5 (POS; anthology; £1.50 from The Hardcore, PO Box 1893, London N9 8JT) Special horror issue of a magazine which explores a dark and not altogether wholesome area somewhere between the occult and virtual reality. Contains some rather slight articles which suggest a wide-ranging but incoherent editorial policy, a few punchy reviews and a mixed bag of strips, of which the best, Si Davies' *November Fields*, is as imaginative as it is unpleasant. Approach with due caution. (MK) 5

Mini Mesh 7 & 8 (Greenbone Press; Holden; 50p each from Greenbone Press, 77 Liverpool Road, Buckley, Clwyd CH7 3LH. Rich Holden has carved out a unique niche for himself in the world of small press comics. His tiny, credit-card sized productions defy normal categorisation; they employ drawings, photo-collaging and colour photocopying in what seems to be an attempt to appeal to the reader's subconscious. Heaven knows what they mean, but they're gorgeous to look at, and possibly define the meeting point of comic art and fine art. (MK) 6

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

The latest news, views and rumours in our ever-popular independent look at the hits, misses, prices, projects and people making comics news. Reported by the ever mysterious and controversial team of investigative diggers and delvers known to the world only as ITMA.

Valiant Efforts

THE success of Valiant's marketing seems to be showing results in areas other than sales. Dark Horse, in the wake of its cross-over with DC (**Batman v Predator**) has now agreed to a character cross-over story with Valiant.

Scripted by Jim Shooter, with art by Lee Weeks and Barry Windsor-Smith covers, it's now Magnus's turn to meet the alien sportsmen, The Predators.

That is, provided the latest stunning news about Jim Shooter's no longer running Valiant doesn't create any rethink...

Unity? Or the lack of it.

Marvel 1993: Year of the Anti-Villain

IF 1992 is Marvel's year of the *Big Guns*, what lies in store for 1993? Rumours are circulating that 1993 will be Marvel's year of the *Anti-Villain*. That is, the Villain who fights other villains for the good of the people, whilst staying on the wrong side of the Heroes.

- One example is a projected mini series starring Venom, written by Danny Fingeroth.
- Another is a proposed Magneto series (even though the hero/villain is reported dead).
- Writer/editor Bob Harras has plans for an Avengers/Magneto/Acolytes mini-series. (ITMA-ite Martin Bahm of Sidcup suggests that for Acolyte leader Fabian Cortez's first appearance, fans should check out the mutant Over Rider in **Captain America Annual #8**)
- An Absorbing Man mini-series is being discussed with George Perez, which will change Thor's foe Crusher Creel from bad guy to hero. Watch future issues of **Silver Sable** and **Thor** for developments.
- Depending on the popularity of **Silver Sable**, a Marvel follow up may be the tentatively-titled **Outlaws**. Something of a **Suicide Squad** clone, it will feature major villains recruited to go on the sort of missions heroes wouldn't touch.
- The Pantheon, the mystery group currently featuring in **The Hulk** is set for their own mini-series, by the proposed team of Peter David and Gary Barker. Thanks to Julian Eales of Raunds in Northants for spotting David's prototype for The Pantheon, The Forsaken, who appeared in an issue of the Marvel New Universe title **Justice**. Peter David fans should check out bargain bins, as he was scriptwriter on issues 15 to 31 of this otherwise forgotten title, which also featured a Jim Lee back up strip in a later issue. (Anyone care to rummage through and find out which issue?).

Shop around

AN INDUSTRY of extremes, comics retail specialist shops are coming and going so quickly, you'll soon need daily updates.

Since last month central London has lost *Adventure into Comics* and *Comics & Music on the Shoreline*, coincidentally both because of disputes with landlords.

Epsom's *Trojan Comics* has gutted by fire, which makes it the second in as many months, following London's *Fantasy Inn* recently suffering the same fate.

Alien Encounters, *Alien Worlds*, *Chapter One* and *Strange Days* seem to have disappeared, as does Jersey's *Trick or Treat*.

But on the other hand, *Fantastic Store* is opening a new branch in Brighton, and Leicester gains its fourth comic shop in ex-*Andromeda Books*' Dave Holmes new *Magic Labyrinth*.

Stateside has just opened in Birmingham, with another new store following in Edgware this August, and a further branch is promised for central London.

Graphically Speaking is opening two new London outlets. *White Light Books* has opened a new shop in Walthamstow (and suffered two break-ins within a month!). *Acme Comics* is adding a second London branch.

Spaced Out Comics has left Three Bridges, being replaced by *Dreams of Dragons Fire*, but is reopening in Covent Garden, London.

Not being left behind, *Forbidden Planet* is expanding its New Oxford Street headquarters into the neighbouring (closed down) Midland bank. But at the last count, that's six new London comic shops opening, and only three closing so it has plenty of competition!

Purple Pain

DC's **Eclipso: The Darkness Within #1** has caused some concern among fans because of the wacky piece of purple plastic cover-mounted. Years after British comics stopped sticking toffee bars and plastic aeroplanes on their covers, DC follows its pop-up Arkham Asylum with a free gift you can't eat, fly or do anything else with.

As it is, if you don't tear the blob off, when placed in a standard comic box, it will dent the back of the book in front of it, or worse still it might even turn it into a darker version of itself!

'60s Eclipso

STICKING with DC's Eclipso, who is set for his own continuing title, he of the purple stone was originally designed as the DC's first anti-hero of the swingin' Sixties.

Those of you checking out his original **House of Secrets** appearances (#61 to #80) will be surprised by how naive the concept of an anti-hero was back then, and how cheaply these issues are generally priced.

Naturally, the first appearance, #61, is the most sought-after, but the usual asking price of between

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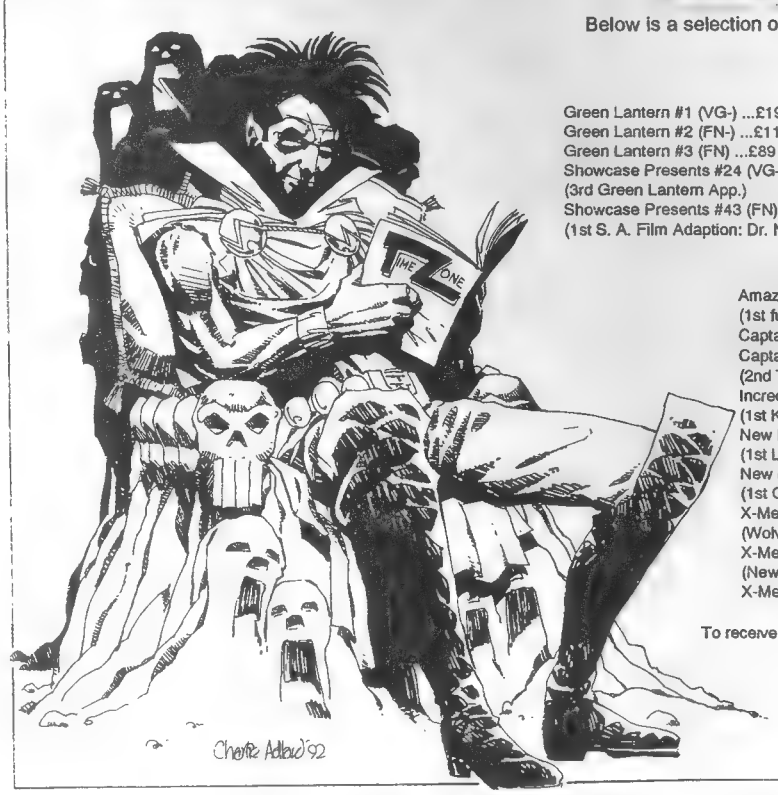

Below is a selection of Back Issues currently in Stock

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(1st S. A. Film Adaption: Dr. No)
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(1st Keown)
New Mutants #86 (NM) ...£7.95
(1st Liefeld)
New Mutants #87 (NM) ...£24.95
(1st Cable App.)
X-Men #212 (NM) ...£9.95
(Wolverine Vs Sabertooth)
X-Men #281 (NM) ...£2.95
(New Team)
X-Men #283 (NM) ...£1.50
Silver Surfer #15 (NM) ...£4.95
(1st Ron Lim)
New Teen Titans #2 (NM) ...£6.25
(1st DeathStroke)
New TeenTitans #10 (NM) ...£4.25
(2nd DeathStroke)
Wolverine #1 (NM) ...£9.95
(Reg Series)
X-Factor #63 (NM) ...£3.95
(1st Portacio)
X-Factor #71 (NM) ...£2.50
(New Team)
X-Men #248 (NM) ...£8.95
(1st Jim Lee)
X-Men #282 (NM) ...£2.95
(Intro Bishop "Cameo")

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£10 and £15 seems a bargain compared to almost any Marvel of that year!

Cash-in tie-ins

ARE **Batman Returns** and **Aliens 3** likely to cause increased back issue interest? There's no denying that prices shot up on Bat-books following the original movie, and have never slid back since.

Shops are already reporting increased standing orders from customers for Batman and Aliens related comic books, and publishers are not being slow in increasing the *number* of tie-ins to these publicity-boosting screen events.

Of course, Aliens comics have constantly been in the top 30 in new issue sales, almost single-handedly creating Dark Horse's current high profile. While back issues have steadily continued to rise in price, Volume 1 #1 (first print) now looks set to exceed £20 as the demand on what was then a low print run indie now far exceeds the supply.

With its animated tv series title soon to follow, the new Batman title **Shadow of the Bat** #1 (the bagged Collectors Edition version) seems to be in short supply.

Can it be that, as with other polybagged (ugh!) titles, fans are frightened to risk ruining a good investment by opening the bag to read what's inside?

If so, any new comic put in a polythene bag by the publisher should guarantee double sales, as the curious speculator just has to buy a spare copy to rip open and read!

With retailers showing their current caution over DCs, **Shadow of the** bagged **Bat #1** looks to be a genuine underordered title and can be expected to soon exceed a £5 tag.

Cut Price Undercuts

THERE'S a seriously worrying trend growing in comic marts recently; the stock clearance 25p each or 5-for-a-pound syndrome.

With more and more dealers trying to shift comics at any price, true values of most post Silver Age back issues are becoming meaningless. If you've only one copy of a title, you may try to sell it at Guide price. But the dealer next to you, with 20 plied high, may only want 25p a copy. Not only does this make it suddenly worth little, but as many dealers display all 20 copies, people often see how common it must be and ignore it in favour of more elusive issues.

So the 25p merchant can't sell them, and the Guide-priced dealer loses faith and may even find marts not viable. As for the collector who paid 50p eight years ago for a copy, no one will want to buy it at any price. The market is becoming swamped, people.

Cut Price Two

THIS cheap dumping tactic gets worse. Try this (common) scenario: Dealer One wants to pack in. Dealer Two takes all his stock at 10p a comic. Not much a copy, but it clears everything and enables dealer one pay his urgent bills

Dealer two already has most of the comics, so he only pulls the considered hot 5% (maximum) of

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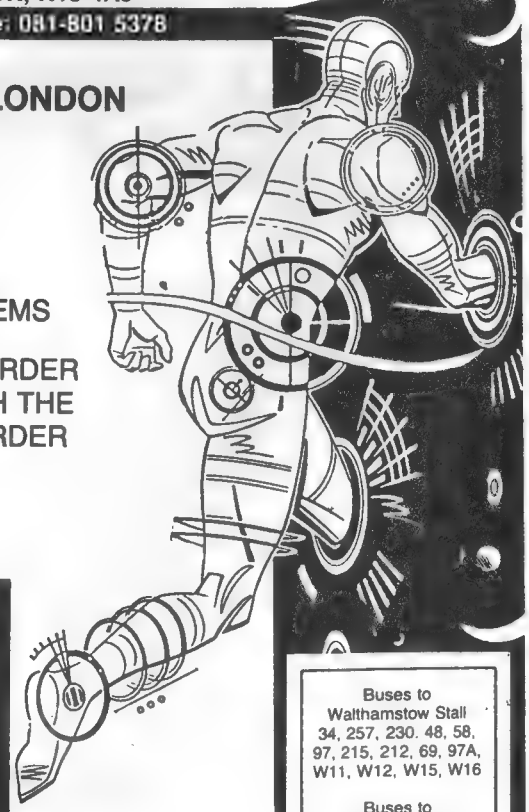

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Buses to Tottenham Shop
79, 149, 243, 76, 123, 359, 41, 230, 243, 243A, N73, N83

Train to Walthamstow: Walthamstow Cent Mainline
Train to Tottenham: Seven Sisters Tube Mainline
Both on the Victoria Line

everything published over the last ten years. The rest he's happy to sell at 25p. Before long, only 5% of the comics of recent years will be worth anything above 25p as the domino effect gains momentum.

Food for thought.

For what it's worth

A TOTALLY confused comic fan from Solihull took a high grade copy of **Amazing Spider-Man 14** (1st Green Goblin) into a comic shop recently to see what would be offered.

"In that grade it's worth £400," he was told. But before he could happily ask what percentage the shop would give him, the retailer added, "But we can't take it. No one can afford it."

The reality is that if no one would buy it for £400, *it isn't worth that much*. Had the retailer said, "We can only sell it here for £200 these days," and made an offer accordingly, he might have taken it.

The seller would have had some (needed) money, and they'd have been able to make a sale.

As it is, the fan is sitting on a comic worth £400 that he can't sell.

Looking at **Wizard** values, or anywhere else, is fine in theory. But because a magazine says a comic is worth a certain amount in California, it needn't be worth the same in Wisconsin, let alone England.

Supply, demand and affluence can vary within a few miles, and the only way to stimulate back issue sales is to price to sell. Collectors may not get as much on sell-back, but with so many shops overstocked *and* overpriced, hardly any are buying and collectors are getting nothing.

Leader of the Pack

Criticisms and rumours about Rob Liefeld in America are rampant.

- Allegedly, he was fired from **X-Force** for missing deadlines. The lateness on his own **Youngblood** only helps add fuel to the rumour. Even his reprint book **Extreme: The Art of Rob Liefeld** is late, and, despite the title, it's not an equally-slim companion volume to **The Wit of Ronald Reagan**.
- He even managed to alienate the generally complimentary **Amazing Heroes** by missing a cover deadline. Editor Thomas Harrington's introduction thanked the Image creators for their help. But in an isolated paragraph added, "Except Rob Liefeld."
- The current rumour concerns his infamous US-tv ad for Levi 501 jeans. Liefeld tells how he answered a phone ad for 501-wearing people with unusual jobs, and found himself the star of a Spike Lee directed tv ad promoting the brand.

The other side of the story is that in the middle of the shoot the exasperated director Spike, allegedly asked one of his crew for the name of a more famous comics artist and was told, "Frank Miller".

He is reported to have then turned to the rather difficult Mr Liefeld saying, "Look, if you can't do what we want, I'll get Frank Miller."

The filming then ran smoothly.

A Dale Tale

ITS now official that Dale Keown has left **The Incredible Hulk**, though there's confusion over whether he will draw #400.

Jan Duursema and **Shade**'s Chris Bachalo are reported to be the new art team.

Apparently an outspoken Imager had bragged that only X-book artists were real crowd-pullers. So when Keown quit **The Hulk** he asked for one of the lucrative bonus-earning X-assignments. Here, two contrasting ITMA sources tell their tales. One has it that, the Marvel editor, believing Keown still tied to **The Hulk** turned him down, so Keown is now set for fulltime work with Image. The other is that Keown is to produce one of the planned mini series projected for next year, which will feature at some time most every mutant in Marvel history. Only time will tell.

Busy Bisley

SIMON BISLEY, reported to have recently accepted a huge sum for a one-year exclusivity contract with Tundra Publishing, was shocked when **Lobo's Back #2** appeared in the shops earlier than he expected.

By the end of June, he still had five pages of issue 3 to draw. Anticipate some rescheduling.

New X-artists

MARK Pacella has proved to be an apt replacement for Rob Liefeld on **X-Force**, using a similar technique, but now after a few issues he is coming into his own. Shame he's not staying with the book.

Many people think that Greg Cappulo, a John Romita Jr drawalike will add that element to **X-Force** which Brett Blevins gave to **New Mutants** before its revamp.

Raney days due

Tom Raney is due to fill in for Angel Medina on **Warlock and the Infinity Watch** and pencil **The Uncanny X-Men**.

While his short list of Marvel credits include the unimpressive **New Mutants Annual #7** and **Double Dragon 2** and **3**, it also includes **Silver Surfer #59** and **Uncanny X-Men #291** which were both very impressive.

Raney encapsulates the cartoonish elements of Art Adams and Michael Golden but adds '90s grit.

Travis Charest is also an artist to watch. He debuted for Marvel with this year's lead in story in **Hulk Annual #18** and has since produced the 1992 **Flash Annual** for DC.

Next he is handling the promising new DC title **Darkstars**, replacing Larry Stroman from issue 4.

Thibert and the Hack Shackers

HACK SHACK Studios' Chris Lewis and Trevor Scott are expected to be

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Uncanny X-Men
20 f-nm £16.50
27 f £12.50
30 vg £10.00
51 g (Steranko) £15.00
54 ..... £9.50
56 fn (1st Adams) £15.00
64 vg-f £6.50
70 ..... £6.00
110 ..... £7.00
129 ..... £4.95
141 f £4.50
213 (Sabretooth) £5.50

Wolverine
1 ..... £5.00

Sandman
..... £12.50

Fantastic Four
347, 348 (Adams art) £3.5.0

Hulk
182 f (3rd Wolvie) £20.00

Silver Surfer
1 ..... £9.50

Shade
1 ..... £5.00
2 ..... £6.00

Amazing Spider-Man
23 (Goblin) faulty back cover, o/w vf £50.00
31 vg-f (1st Gwen Stacey, Harry Osbourne) £9.00
36 f £11.00
38 (Last Ditko, worn but good) £4.50
45 g £5.50
47 f £12.50
51 (2nd Kingpin) g-vg £7 50
92 f £4.50
97 f £7.00
298 ..... £4.95
301 ..... £7.50

New Mutants
90 f £3.50
93 ..... £3.50
94 ..... £4.50
95 ..... £4.00
96 ..... £5.00
97 ..... £3.50

Longshot
1 ..... £7.50
3 ..... £6.50
4 ..... £6.50
5 ..... £7.00
6 ..... £9.00

X-Factor
1 ..... £6.00

Alpha Flight
1 ..... £5.95

Punisher War Journal
2 ..... £5.00
7 (Guest Wolvie) £5.50

New Ghost Rider
2 ..... £5.00
5 ..... £5.00
6 ..... £5.00
15 (Glow in dark, 2nd print) £4.00

Thanos Quest
1 ..... £4.50

Surfer
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135 f £5.00

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324 f £10.00
338 vf £9.00
354 f-nm £8.50
356 f £7.50
357 f £9.00
359 f £10.00
367 vg £6.50
375 vg+ £7.95
378 f+ £12.50
381 f £7.50
382 f £7.50

Action Comics
285 vf ..... £25.00 (Supergirl revealed)
299 vf £12.50
304 f £6.50

Metamorpho
11 ..... £4.50

Adventure Comics
307 f (1st Element Lad) £12.00
325 vf £7.95
335 vf £7.95

DC Comics Presents
26 (1st New Teen Titans Starlin) £4.50

Batman Cult
1 ..... £15.00
2 ..... £9.50
4 ..... £7.50

Batman (Year One)
400 ..... £7.50
404 ..... £7.50
405 ..... £6.00
406 ..... £4.00
407 ..... £4.00

Batman: The Dark Knight Returns
2 ..... £15.00
3 ..... £7.50
4 ..... £7.50

The Flash
131 f £15.00
135 f £18.50
143 ..... £12.50

Superman
156 vf-f £22.00
158 vg+ £12.50
159 vf+ £24.00

Justice League of America
4 f+ £55.00
7 vf-f £55.00
20 f (slight tear) £7.50
75 f £4.00

Mystery in Space
69 f (dealer's stamp, tear on spine, o/w f) £14.95
85 f £6.50

Green Lantern
12 vg-f £15.00
16 f (slight spine tear) ... £12.50
20 vg-f (Flash) £12.50
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27 vf £20.00

Metal Men
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the future replacements for Lee, Portacio and Williams on Marvel's mutant titles.

They work with someone who is possibly the hottest "new" artist around at the moment, Art Thibert, inker on Jim Lee's **X-Men** pencils He is now set to both pencil and ink the book while new regular penciller Andy Kubert finishes off his **Ghost Rider** stint.

Thibert, who also works out of Hack Shack Studios has long been associated with Jim Lee, Rob Liefeld and Whilce Portacio as fill-in inker on all the X-titles. His current workload includes plotting and pencilling the forthcoming **Nightwing** mini-series for DC, which looks like being very, very hot. He is also providing covers to Jackson Guice interiors in the highly readable if not valuable **Action Comics**.

Speculators beware: Reading suggestion follows

TALKING about **Action Comics**, Superman & Art Thibert, Thibert is just one of many of today's top pencillers who have worked on the pre-Crisis Man of Steel, along with such talents as Neal Adams, Jack Kirby, Jim Steranko, Curt Swan, Frank Miller, and Murphy Anderson to name but a few.

Not that the "revitalised" Man of Steel has been short of talent. He's been depicted by the likes of Mike Mignola, John Byrne, Jerry Ordway, Andy Kubert, Jackson Guice, Dan Jurgens, Tom Grummett, Steve Rude, George Perez and Arthur Adams.

While even the abilities of these recent creators are never likely to give the first superhero the glory he once had. It is a genuine shame that in this value-based comics world more people don't pick up the title.

It may not make you any money, but the five Superman titles are excellent examples of how to produce truly entertaining comics.

Try one for a damn fine read.

The God of Mischief strikes again!

SHAME ON Marvel's Ralph Macchio for drawing his pay cheque as **Thor** editor. We don't usually cover mistakes that slip past editors and assistants, we'd have no room for hot tips if we did.

But Ralph dropped a huge clanger with the current anniversary issue of the thunder god's title.

The giant-sized **Thor 450** (celebrating who knows what as the character began in issue #83 of what was then called **Journey into Mystery**) features a reprint of the first Loki appearance.

In current popular flip-book style, the back cover reprints the story's original cover, **Journey into Mystery 85**, while the strip inside has an editorial box from Ralph, which states it first appeared in **Journey into Mystery 87**.

Historians will be howling, faces will be red, and the amount of care given to padding "anniversary" issues with reprints will be sceptically considered by many.

Variable dealings

THIS magazine's *ComicWatch* may provide a good indication on which comics are currently hot and their price ranges according to (mainly) comic shops, but many comic mart dealers charge far higher prices. Which is strange ...

Full-time shop-owning retailers have many extra costs including rent, rates and power, with sales being their only way of covering these costs. Mart dealers have a table for the day to pay for, transport for the day, and (just maybe) hired help. So how come shops are often cheaper?

Anyone care to explain why, or is it simply fast-buck greed from the part-timers?

A Marvel sleeper

DARKHAWK seems to have found a following in this country at last, with many dealers reporting rises in back issue sales. The Venom crossover issues are obvious ones to watch, and you can expect issue #1 to break £5 in a few months.

A DC sleeper

APPARENTLY, the originally ignored more-holograms-than-ever-before **Robin 2 Slip Case Collectors Set** is now very difficult to obtain (once more due to retail scepticism). This has resulted in one northern dealer already buying them in for £20 each.

Obituary

WHILE the deaths of comics innovators Bill (EC) Gaines and Martin (Timely - Marvel) Goodman have been reported in various places throughout the media, one innovative publisher's demise appears to have gone unmentioned despite being frighteningly more newsworthy.

32-year old Todd Loren, publisher of Revolutionary Comics, was discovered stabbed to death in his Canyon Woods condo in San Diego

Loren had been the controversial and outspoken publisher of unauthorised comics biographies of actors, rock and sports stars and, in one of his last titles, Stan Lee.

Loren had won a copyright suit test case over his "freedom of the press" **New Kids on the Block** unauthorised biog. The April 1990 judge's ruling only prevented him from using the group's copyright logo. So, he published a sequel, *Fall of the New Kids* further annoying the band's management.

With his artists usually being so poor, no one had tried to use the American law to sue over illegal use of their likenesses.

Loren had begun his business in 1989, with a $2,000 investment and had peaked with **Rock 'n Roll Comics 1** (Guns and Roses) selling over 150,000 copies.

In publishing his controversial titles, Loren made a lot of enemies.

While few are likely to give space to his death in print, his sudden and brutal end has come as a shock to everyone.

The totally subjective musings of the ITMA team are personal opinions, and do not necessarily reflect those of the publication. But you already knew that, didn't you?

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Once again we've managed to keep the page count down to a mere 80 for your hard-earned 50p. Unfortunately, this has resulted in a few somewhat truncated regular columns and the odd absentee.

We'd hoped that by increasing our frequency from ten to twelve issues a year, we would be able to fit everything into a smaller package. But the news and new advertisers in the comics industry continue to grow at a break-neck pace.

Life was so much easier with 48 pages, but doesn't it make you pleased to know you're part of what is possibly the fastest growing media industry? Derek G. Skinn / Editor

"Doubting" Thomas McSween, Todmorden, Lancs

There's been a lot of bally-hoo about creators' rights lately, especially with regard to the breakaway artists setting up Image Comics.

But if Jim Lee, Rob Liefeld and friends are now working at a company where they own their creations, where does this put the previously unheard of guys who get co-scripting or inking credits?

Are they merely working for a different version of The Man? Do they co-own the hot new properties, and get their share of the T-shirt and trading card license money? (I won't even risk asking what royalty the letterers and colourists get in this new egalitarian system.)

Or do they all get a flat fee until they are famous enough to break away and set up their own comics?

Incidentally, if these old school pals are such talented co-workers, why did their famous friends never put them forward to write and draw at Marvel? Or did they and nobody was impressed with the samples.

As always, we welcome response. This time from anyone privileged to know the inner workings at Image Comics. (DGS)

John Miller, address withheld, Edinburgh, Scotland.

The latest **Comics International** kept me in reading for a good few hours. Your cover colour must be costly to print, but is wasted on trendy art. Give's a picture of *The Green Hornet* if yir gonnae use colour.

I like the idea of the 'totally subjective musings of the ITMA team' in *Movers & Shakers* each month, but I found said musing about the latest jazzy X-mutants comics a bit boring -- maybe they're not subjective enough!

While I miss your excellent comics history features, I did like the Bonhams art auction feature, which was pretty entertaining and nicely illustrated.

I also like very much the sharp and sophisticated (but not pretentious) writing style of Sarah Bolesworth in *Media File*.

I agreed wholeheartedly with Phil Hall's *Comment* that 'publishers are flooding the market with way too much product'. In my opinion, it's all a case of corporate quantity rather than comics quality. The only Marvel I buy monthly is **Marvel Tales**, a reprint title. But it seems Marvel is reluctant to introduce new reprints (outside of mega-buck hardback editions) despite having stacks of classic comic material.

But they can always find room for another **Punisher** macho gross-out war zone comic, or another X-title with crummy artwork.

Ah well, at least Alan Class is still pushing out **Creepy Worlds**.

*The day **Marvel Tales** sells as well as **The Punisher** and **X-Men**, you can be sure Marvel will release similar titles, John. (DGS)*

K. McCarthy, 182 Gateshead Rd, Borehamwood, Herts

Is everybody blind, or is it me? *Rob Liefeld can't draw!* Apart from missing limbs (ie. **X-Force 5**, page 17) he only draw fat bodies and over-muscular legs. I don't understand all the fuss.

And as for **Youngblood #1**, all I can say is stick to drawing, Rob. Bad as it is, it's better than your writing.

M. Kirwan-Hayhoe, Maplin Hse Wolvercote Rd, London SE2

Congratulations on **Comics International's** expansion both into colour usage and national newsstand distribution.

I have been reading it ever since the first issue, and though I have disagreed many times with the contributions (especially the reviews), I have nonetheless found it a consistently more entertaining and thought-provoking read than many of the comics it has been commenting upon.

M. C. Gulliver, 16 Orpwood Way Abingdon, Oxfordshire

Many thanks for the continuing quality of your fine magazine. I especially find the *Advance Listings* useful when ordering new comics.

I also read the *Movers & Shakers* pages with interest, although I wonder if such a column can actually increase demand for a hot item and result in an artificial price increase. Or am I being a tad cynical?

As if... (DGS)

Toby Stanbra, 22 Walbrook Ave, Springfields, Milton Keynes

As usual, desired and desirable reading in **Comics International 21.** It far exceeds my wildest dreams about the future of the old fanzine days and to be able to buy a copy from my local newsagent makes it far more accessible than a trip to that haven of happiness, *Forbidden Planet, Milton Keynes*.

What prompted me to write my first letter to a publication since 1979 was the *Comment* by Phil Hall.

When I discovered that Phil had opened a comic shop, I really believed that if anyone deserved to make a living from comics, he was that man. When I discovered his shop, *Squonk*, had closed down, I would like to think I was not the only person to feel deeply shocked by the loss.

It is a shame that this industry is not big enough to sustain people like Phil, one of the most knowledgable comic fans I have ever met, when there are so many people who do well without the effort.

A Zarzozni fan, name & address supplied

I see the Brendan McCarthy cover for the **2000AD Action Special** received the thumbs down in your *Reviews Section* recently. But the cover's combination of strangeness and beauty was what attracted me to the publication in the first place. And in fact, the cover is now all I retain of the magazine.

Since I'm no speculator, the same went for all those valuable early **Shade** issues featuring Brendan's cover art.

I'm not a fanatical McCarthy-ite. But all I now buy is the occasional issue which I think represents a favourite writer's or artist's best work, filed alphabetically.

After 26 years of reading the American stuff, for example, I retain only a few boxes of it. Out of any given title, I keep only the human interest sequences, not the super-hero ones. A £50 black and white magazine containing an early *Punisher* appearance? Ripped up to get at a Chaykin short story.

"Bulk" and "high monetary value" are not words which stick to my modest collection. But the critical mutilations allow me room for other good things in life -- such as air to breathe! I can dip into anyone's work as casually and quickly as putting on a CD.

How well a good McCarthy goes with the Beatles' **Revolver**, and how well did McCarthy's contributions justify the cover price of the late lamented **Revolver** magazine!

M. Mooney, 26 Underwood St., Shawlands, Glasgow

I just picked up a copy of **Comics International** at *AKA Books*. Congratulations on a well put together, informative publication.

I still cringe a little at all this talk of comics as an investment, but what else can you expect from someone who spent his formative years reading **Silver Surfer**. Surely comics are above these mundane matters of profit and loss. Or perhaps not.

Having taken a six month break from reading comics, your *Reviews Section* seemed the ideal guide. After all, it promises to "keep you, the reader, abreast of the entire range of titles currently available.

But **Cerebus** was missing? Had it finished? Or did you have a fall-out with its creator, Dave Sim?

*Our intro to the reviews states our intention, not our promise, to keep readers abreast, etc. **Cerebus** has featured in most issues, but you must have picked one where we tried to squeeze a few lesser-known titles into the space allocated. (DGS)*

THE 1992 LONDON COMIC ART AUCTION

Comics International is pleased to announce that it will be hosting a one-day comics auction this summer in central London.

The event will be divided into five categories, and would-be vendors are invited to submit details of material they wish to be auctioned:

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Submission suggestions, complete with s.a.e. and daytime telephone number should be addressed to:

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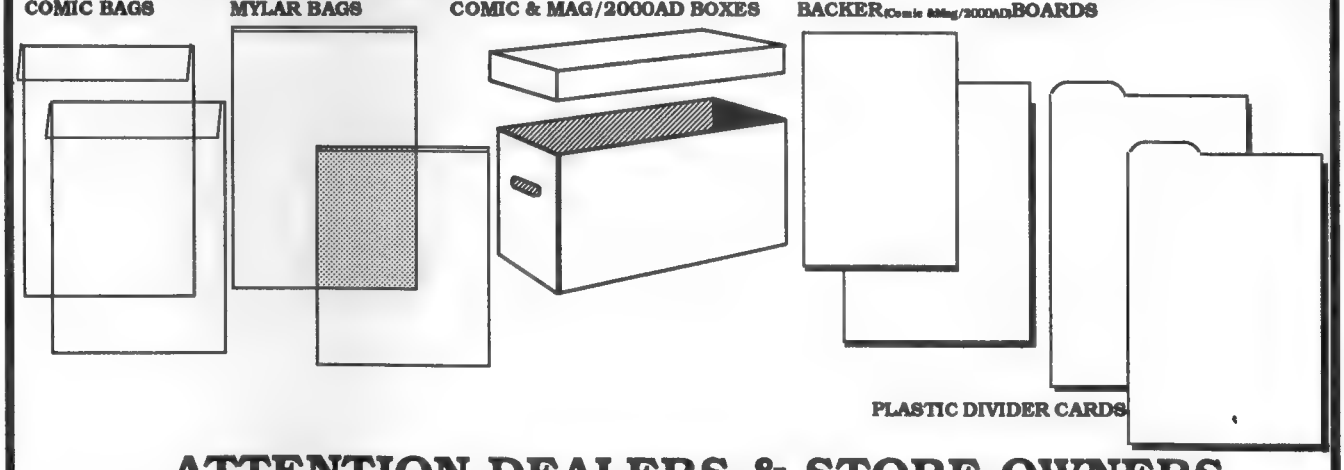

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Bargain hunter? Unfortunately, I must sell my huge collection of comics (all publishers). Send your wants list with your address and two 24p stamps to: Brian Watson, 39 High St., Sutton, Ely, Cambs. CB6 2RA.

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Cerebus 1 for sale, £275; telephone 0904 654026. Also my first and doubtless last pretentious, poeticish, untitled mini-comic, **Imperfect Elm** 001. 10 pages of story for £1 + 20p p&p. It's unlikely that they will be, but check to see if your local retailer is going to stock it first, Cheques and postal orders made payable to: Michael Exelby, Elm Tree, 21 Pulleyn Drive, Tadcaster Rd, York YO2 2DY.

Luther Arkwright Omnibus. The trilogy by Brian Talbot now available in a limited edition (of 200) signed, hard-bound omnibi. We still have a few copies available at £20 each (includes p&p). Cheques or International Money Orders only, to: Proutt, PO Box 399, London SW3 5HY. We also have copies of the **Valkyrie** 9 part comic-book format edition (except #1) available at cover prices of 60p issue. Enquiries welcome. Orders outside of EEC, please add £5 extra.

DC, Marvel, Independents and British comics for sale. State specific wants (title, issue number). Send SAE to: Ken Short, Unit 14A, Mill Lane, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 1JQ.

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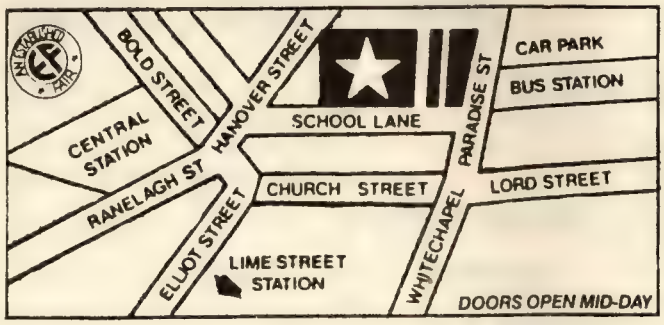

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I seek Denis McLoughlin material, especially Super Coloured Comic Annuals and Boardman **Spirit** and **Blackhawk**. Contact: A. F. A. Hertzberg, 48 Shalmarsh Road, Higher Bebington, Cheshire.

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Seduction of the Innocent (Frederick Wertham, no dust-jacket, ex-library copy, vg. Any comic related item considered. 'Phone after 6pm or write to: Roy Carne, Windy Ridge, Wheal Vor, Carleen, Breage, Helston, Cornwall, TR13 9NW, tel: 0736 762650.

Want to exchange **Spectacular Spider-Man** 83; **Punisher War Journal** limited series 2; **X-Men** 130 134 for **Daredevil** 249 and **X-Men** 245. Also **Wolverine** 1; **X-Men** 186 269 for **Punisher** 8 10. All comics nm, please. 'Phone Roger on 081-451 4984.

Wanted: **Vampire Lestat** 1 3-7 (any print); Anne Rice's **The Mummy** 3-12; **Interview** 2-5; **Elric**; **Batman** trade paperbacks. Will exchange: **Logan's Run** 6; **Demon** 1-6 10 11 ('70s Kirby); **Savage Sword of Conan** (US) 2-10; **Tomb of Dracula** (US) 21 32 44-70, also other Marvel (US) Dracula material.

I have copies of **X-Men** 256 257 258, all vf and **Phoenix, the Untold Story** nm and I will exchange these for **Daredevil** 257vf and **Punisher** 10vf+. Also **X-Men** 248vf for **Punisher** limited series 1f+. Contact: Steve Buckle, 21 Busy Lane, Windhill, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD18 1DX.

Spider-Man 1 (Blue Lizard); **Amazing** 285 298; **Web** Annual 2; **Punisher WJ** 1; **Punisher** 9 16 24 25; various **Dredd** graphic novels for various totals of **Spider-Man** 11 12 18 19; **Amazing Spider-Man** 100-260; 320-359; **Daredevil** 257-266; **Punisher** 10 51 53-57; **Punisher WJ** 3 6 8 16-40; **Thing** 1 3 9 23 28 36; **Superman: Man of Steel** 1. Contact Steve on 081-319 0006.

DC Cosmic Cards, Comic Images, Ghost Rider II, X-Force trading cards for Marvel II Impel series or other card series, particularly DC Cosmic Cards 166. Contact Steve on 0271 45915.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mondo is coming back, better than ever! Join the stripzine for the '90s! We need people who can draw super-heroes and space opera and readers! (Lots of you!). Discover the merry world of **Mondo** vol. 2! Write to: Lee Davis, 35 Manly Dixon Drive, Enfield, Middx. EN3 6BQ.

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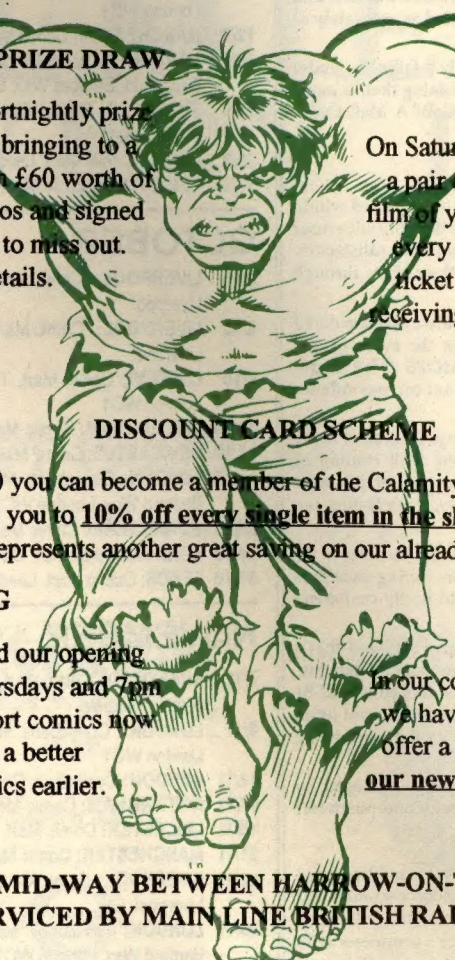

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EVENTS GUIDE

An at-a-glance guide, this listing gives the dates and locations of all forthcoming events advertised this issue. A free service for advertisers, the bracketed number after each entry denotes the page where full details appear.

JULY

18/7 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street (p 32)
25/7 **NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart, Blackfriars Hall, New Bridge Street (p 32)

AUGUST

1/8 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Bluecoat Chambers Concert Hall, School Lane, Liverpool (p 76)
1-2/8 **LONDON:** Comic Book Convention (2 days with guests), Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London (postponed)
2/8 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, T.U.C. Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (p 25)
2/8 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Forte Crest Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool (p 32)
8/8 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Polytechnic, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way (p 32)
16/8 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace: Special Edition, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1 (p 19)
29/8 **NOTTINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Stakis Victoria Hotel, Milton Street (p 32)

SEPTEMBER

5/9 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Bluecoat Chambers Concert Hall, School Lane, Liverpool (p 76)
5/9 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Parker Street, Westminster (p 60)
6/9 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1 (p 28)
12/9 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street (p 32)
19/9 **LONDON:** 2-day UK Comic Art Convention (19 & 20/9; with guests), Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London WC1 (p 15)
19/9 **SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Main Hall, Sheffield Polytechnic, Howard Street, Sheffield (p 32)
26/9 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Polytechnic, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way (p 32)
27/9 **LEICESTER:** Comic Mart, YMCA, Granby Street, Leicester (p 32)

OCTOBER

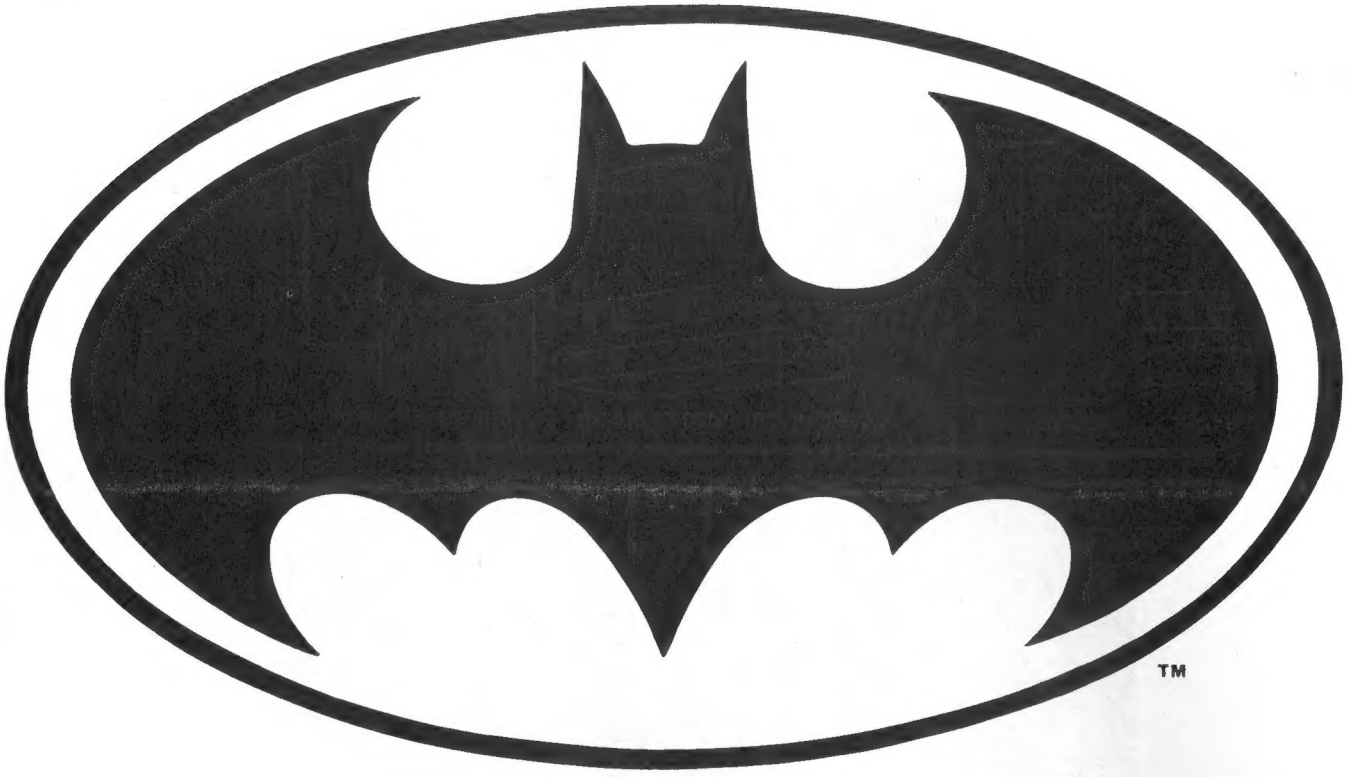
3/10 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Bluecoat Chambers Concert Hall, School Lane, Liverpool (p 76)
4/10 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Forte Crest Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool (p 32)
4/10 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, T.U.C. Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (p 25)
10/10 **NOTTINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Stakis Victoria Hotel, Milton Street (p 32)
17/10 **NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart, Blackfriars Hall, New Bridge Street (p 32)
18/10 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace: Special Edition, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1 (p 19)
24/10 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, The Midland Hotel, New Street (p 32)
24/10 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Parker Street, Westminster (p 60)
31/10 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Polytechnic, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way (p 32)

NOVEMBER

7/11 **SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Main Hall, Sheffield Polytechnic, Howard Street, Sheffield (p 32)
8/11 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1 (p 28)
14/11 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Parker Street, Westminster (p 60)
14/11 **NOTTINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Stakis Victoria Hotel, Milton Street (p 32)
15/11 **LEICESTER:** Comic Mart, YMCA, Granby Street, Leicester (p 32)
21/11 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street (p 32)
22/11 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Forte Crest Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool (p 32)
29/11 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace: Special Edition, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1 (p 19)

DECEMBER

6/12 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, T.U.C. Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (p 25)
12/12 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, The Midland Hotel, New Street (p 32)



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